

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNITION OF ARCHIE GREEN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Archie Green, a distinguished San Franciscan and recipient of the Library of Congress' Living Legend Award.

Dr. Green has devoted most of his 90 years to the study and celebration of people, and to the texture and meaning of their lives as expressed in song, story, custom, belief, ritual, and craft. He became a shipwright's apprentice in the Bay Area in the 1930s. After serving as a carpenter's mate in the Navy during World War II, he returned to San Francisco to become involved in veterans' affairs and to work in the building trades for another 15 years. Along the way he listened and observed and talked with people he met about their working lives and traditions. His passionate interest in workers and their traditions sparked an interest in research and writing that eventually earned him a Ph.D. in folklore. He became a university professor, and wrote seminal books and articles about grassroots culture and the folk traditions of work.

Archie Green's work has stimulated younger generations of scholars to become interested in "laborlore"—a term he coined. In the union ranks his writings in newsletters and journals have given members a renewed sense of their shared heritage.

Decades ago, believing that the Federal Government had a vital role to play in documenting, supporting, revitalizing, and disseminating America's grassroots knowledge and arts, Dr. Green envisioned a national center that would preserve and present American folklife. He then spent 10 years walking the halls of Congress, explaining to every Senator and every Representative, and to their staffs, why the folk traditions in their States and districts mattered, and why the ordinary citizens who carry them on deserved our recognition. On January 2, 1976, President Gerald R. Ford signed into law the American Folklife Preservation Act, PL 94-201, which had passed unanimously by both houses of Congress, and established an American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

Thirty-one years later, the American Folklife Center is going strong. It carries out projects and initiatives that document, preserve, and share information about the diverse cultural traditions of the American people. Its archive, now with more than 4 million items, is one of the largest in the world. Its Veterans History Project—launched in 2000 by an act of Congress—is the largest oral history project in the Nation's history.

On August 16 and 17, the American Folklife Center is sponsoring a symposium on laborlore, and Archie Green—the father of laborlore in the United States—will take part. It is highly fitting that, during the symposium, he will be given the Living Legend Award in

recognition of his work that has raised our awareness of how our traditions contribute to a larger history.

I join Dr. James H. Billington and the Library of Congress in commending Dr. Green for his contribution to our Nation's history.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOSEPH LIGHTHOUSE IN MICHIGAN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the proud maritime heritage of the twin cities of St. Joseph and Benton Harbor, MI. This month several special events will be held commemorating the 100th anniversary of our historic landmark, the St. Joseph Lighthouse.

St. Joseph and Benton Harbor's very beginnings were tied to Lake Michigan and the St. Joseph River. The intersection of these waterways provided for the founding of Fort Miami in 1679—the first European settlement in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. At one time, the trade and waterfront activity rivaled that of Chicago.

St. Joseph's lighthouse legacy has included five historic structures, including most recently, the North Pier lighthouses, which were completed as a range light system in 1907. When lined up together, they direct mariners to the mouth of the river. These architectural icons, along with their original Fresnel lenses and restored catwalk, survive as one of only two range light systems still active in the Great Lakes today. This year we celebrate 100 proud years of the lighthouses guiding fleets of freighters, passenger liners, fish tugs, and recreational watercraft safely to our harbor.

Few shoreline communities in the Great Lakes region can offer such a rich blend of past traditions, surviving historical structures, and living maritime history as St. Joseph and Benton Harbor. The lighthouse and the commercial shipping industry it was built to serve remain vital to our understanding of the past, present, and future. The St. Joseph lighthouse's working waterfront and maritime tradition have defined the cultural life and economy of our community, and I look forward to another century of the lighthouse serving as a loyal beacon for our magnificent shores.

IN COMMEMORATION OF RICHARD CASWELL, FATHER OF NORTH CAROLINA: PATRIOT, SOLDIER, STATESMAN

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of North Carolina's first Governor, Richard Caswell.

As a sign of honor and respect for his service to North Carolina in many significant and progressive leadership roles, I join in strong support of the State of North Carolina's designation of the month of August 2007 as Gov. Richard Caswell Month to honor this important patriot and the first Governor of North Carolina.

Richard Caswell was born on August 3, 1729, in Harford County, MD. At the age of 16, Richard and his brother, William, came to North Carolina on horseback with letters of introduction and recommendation from the Governor of Maryland to North Carolina's royal governor, Gabriel Johnston.

Richard Caswell was an early and effective leader of the patriot cause in the American Revolution. He represented North Carolina at both Continental Congresses and served in all five Provincial Congresses.

He commanded the patriot forces in the important early victory over the loyalists at the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge in February 1776, thus becoming one of North Carolina's first heroes. He served throughout the Revolution as commander of the North Carolina Cavalry, and ultimately served as major general of the North Carolina Militia during the Revolution.

He chaired the committee that drafted the first North Carolina Constitution.

Richard Caswell served as the first Governor of North Carolina and still holds the distinction of having served more terms than any other Governor of our State.

He passed away on November 10, 1789, in Fayetteville, NC.

In recognition of the outstanding statesmanship Richard Caswell provided for North Carolina, and the leadership he exhibited in his military and public career as well as family life, a celebration will take place in his honor the week of August 12 through August 19, 2007. Included in the celebration will be a grand re-opening of the Richard Caswell Memorial State Historic Site in Kinston, NC, as well as concerts, lectures and living histories.

I am pleased to join the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, the Lenoir County Colonial Commission and the people of North Carolina in honoring Richard Caswell—patriot, soldier and statesman.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERTS FIELD-
REDMOND MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with you the storied tradition and history that led to the establishment of Roberts Field-Redmond Municipal Airport in Redmond, Oregon. The same strong community support that led to the construction and completion of the airfield still exists today as the City of Redmond embarks on a terminal construction project to further expand air services in the beautiful region of central Oregon.

The origins of the airport date back to the 1920s, when local farmers and merchants made a monthly chore of collecting and clearing debris from the roads. In the neighboring towns of Alfalfa and Powell Butte, farmers did the same until the men met in the middle and the roads could once again facilitate trade.

Madam Speaker, in 1928 discussions of creating an air strip grew serious. Members of the Ray Johnson Post of the American Legion in Redmond formed an aviation committee and work on an air strip began. The September 6, 1928 Redmond Spokesman reported:

"A fine, level spot two miles east of town on the Ochoco Highway will be cleared immediately of trees and sagebrush . . . the post had funds to begin an aviation program that will ultimately develop into an up-to-date place for airplanes to land and take off."

In 1933, the Department of the Interior decided to lease approximately 640 acres southeast of Redmond to the Ray Johnson Post, giving them the exclusive rights to develop an airfield there. The Post leased the land for \$10 a year for 20 years. By 1936 the landing was listed as an airfield on most federal maps. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) provided critical funding toward rock removal to ensure that Roberts Field was safe for take off and landing procedures. At the beginning of 1941, the WPA was approached by the War Administration with an inquiry on the cost of building a Class III airport in Redmond. J.R. Roberts, a local resident and community leader, noted at the time that a Class III airport would provide substantial improvements to the airport and grant the construction of lights, paved runways, hangars, buildings and shops. That message was relayed to the WPA and consequently the War Administration and the powers in Washington, DC.

Madam Speaker and fellow colleagues, I can only imagine the surprise and the excitement of many residents in Redmond when they awoke one morning in February of 1941 to read the following in the Redmond Spokesman:

"Roosevelt Slaps OK on Airport and reported \$717,000 in WPA funds approved."

In June of 1941 the airport was named after J.R. Roberts as a tribute to all of his work and leadership that led to the establishment of the airport. Meanwhile, improvements to the airport continued. In October of the same year, \$318,000 of defense funding was allocated for the construction of two runways at Roberts Field. In 1942, the city leased the airport back to the government and allowed for the construction of a bomber base. When World War

II ended, commercial air service was established at Roberts Field as J.R. Roberts worked diligently to negotiate the return of the airport to city control.

Madam Speaker, the town's population remained relatively static from the 1950s until the 1980s. The building that currently sits on the airport site was constructed in 1981 and was 8,000 square feet in size. But in the 1990s, Redmond and Deschutes County began to grow. That growth exploded from 2000 to 2006, when Redmond's population increased by a stunning 74.3 percent, making it Oregon's fastest-growing city and one of the fastest-growing communities in the country.

Under the exceptional guidance and leadership of the current airport manager, Carrie Novick, along with Redmond Mayor Alan Unger, the Redmond City Council and Redmond City Manager Mike Patterson, Roberts Field has kept pace with the rapid growth the region has experienced. In 2003 the airport was expanded by 16,000 square feet to a total size of 24,000 square feet. Once constructed, the new terminal will be 140,000 square feet and utilize energy efficient measures to achieve its goal of constructing a state-of-the-art building to serve the residents of central Oregon for many years to come.

Madam Speaker, Roberts Field today provides non-stop service to Eugene, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Portland, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, and Seattle through Allegiant Airlines, Horizon Air and United Airlines and Delta Air Lines through services operated by SkyWest Airlines. It is the fourth largest commercial service airport in Oregon, operating approximately 44 arriving and departing flights daily. In 1997, 111,450 passengers boarded flights at Roberts Field; last year, 215,163 passengers departed from Redmond.

Madam Speaker, today's growth and activity at the airport is a testament to the farmers, ranchers and merchants who fulfilled the vision described in the Redmond Spokesman nearly 80 years ago. On August 15, 2007, I will join residents in Redmond to celebrate the great success that Roberts Field has enjoyed since it was established. That morning we will break ground on a terminal expansion that will further enhance the legacy of the Roberts Field-Redmond Municipal Airport. It will be an historic event that the next generation will look back on as a key step in the region's smart and successful growth.

THE EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION
EDUCATION ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to reintroduce the Emergency Contraception Education Act. By improving education among the public and health professionals about emergency contraception (EC), my bill will help protect women's reproductive health, reduce unintended pregnancies, and prevent abortions.

Each year in the U.S., 3 million women face an unintended pregnancy, MORE than any industrialized nation. One in four of these end in abortion. Widespread and correct use of emergency contraception could prevent a signifi-

cant number of unintended pregnancies, reducing the number of abortions in this country.

Emergency contraception is simply a concentrated form of the daily birth control pills taken by millions of women in the U.S. It does not cause abortion, but instead stops the release of an egg from the ovary. EC is a safe and effective means of preventing pregnancy—it has low toxicity and no potential for overdose or addiction; and because there are no important drug interactions, there is no need for medical screening, allowing for self-identification of the need. Furthermore, EC will not harm an established pregnancy. If taken within 72 hours after unprotected sex or contraceptive failure, EC can reduce the risk of pregnancy by as much as 89 percent. But because of the narrow window of effectiveness, timely access to EC is critical.

In light of its safety and efficacy, the American Medical Association and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists have supported more widespread availability of EC. The Food and Drug Administration has approved over-the-counter access to the emergency contraceptive Plan B for adults. Yet, many patients and health care providers remain uninformed about this important contraception option. Only 1 in 3 women of reproductive age in the U.S. are aware of EC. In 2003, the Kaiser Foundation conducted a survey to examine teens' and adults' knowledge and opinions of EC in California. What they found was very disconcerting—nearly 40 percent did not know that EC was available in the U.S., and half of adult women who had heard of EC, mistakenly thought that it was the "abortion pill," also known as RU-486. Only 7 percent of adults who have heard of EC learned about it from their health care professional. Even women who had a gynecologic exam in the last year were no more likely to have learned about EC from their doctor.

Unfortunately, lack of knowledge and the failure to provide patients with information on EC is a familiar trend throughout this country. Only one in four ob/gyns in the U.S. routinely discuss emergency contraception with their patients. Less than 18 percent of hospitals provide emergency contraception at a woman's request without restrictions. And, tragically nearly 50 percent of hospitals do not provide EC to a woman who has been sexually assaulted, even though it is often the only contraceptive option for the 300,000 women who are raped each year.

Healthy People 2010, published by the Office of the Surgeon General, establishes a 10-year national public health goal of increasing the proportion of health care providers who provide emergency contraception to their patients. My bill will move us much closer toward achieving this goal. The Emergency Contraception Education Act will initiate a large-scale education campaign to better inform women and health care providers about emergency contraception. Specifically, this bill will direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop and disseminate information on EC to health care providers, including recommendations on the use of EC in appropriate cases, and how to obtain copies of information developed by HHS for distribution to patients. The Secretary will also be required to develop and disseminate information on EC to the American public.

EC could help women prevent unintended pregnancies and therefore reduce the need for

abortions in the United States. However, barriers to information and access hinder this preventative contraceptive method from reaching its full potential. We can and we must do more to protect women's reproductive health by increasing knowledge of emergency contraception and expanding access to this critical preventative solution.

Madam Speaker, I urge Members to co-sponsor my bill today.

COMMENDING THE PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY FOR FIFTY YEARS OF VISIONARY SERVICE AND STEWARDSHIP

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) of Auburn, California in celebration of 50 years of outstanding public service. Founded in 1957 as a result of the commitment of community leaders with an unusual sense of vision to develop and protect water resources within the County, the Agency has maintained the vision to address water resource needs across the 1,500 square miles of Placer County.

PCWA obtained federal and state licenses and permits and developed its Middle Fork American River Project which consists of two main reservoirs, a series of hydroelectric power plants and 24 miles of tunnels. The project, which was financed by the sale of electricity, today produces approximately one billion kilowatt hours of clean, green electricity annually.

The Agency has assisted water districts, cities and acquired and upgraded previously existing and antiquated water systems in Placer County, enabling it to provide retail and wholesale water to needy areas within the County; provided financial assistance to water districts within the County for the conservation and development of water supplies and facilities; and continues to focus on preserving water quality and enacting water use efficiencies that ensure a safe and reliable water supply for the region.

PCWA understands its role as an environmental steward to the watersheds of the County and continues to work in good faith with federal, state and local community stakeholders.

Madam Speaker, I commend and congratulate the Board of Directors, management and employees of the Placer County Water Agency for 50 successful years of vision, stewardship and dedicated service to the people of Placer County and for working to preserve the County's rich water resources while also working to provide clean, renewable energy for the benefit of future generations in Placer County.

REAUTHORIZATION OF UNDERGROUND RAILROAD EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROGRAM

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2707 reauthorizing the activities of the Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program through FY 2012.

Passed in 1998, the original amendment to the Higher Education Act of 1965 authorized the Secretary of Education, in consultation and cooperation with the Secretary of the Interior, to make grants to nonprofit educational organizations established to research, display, interpret, and collect artifacts related to the history of the Underground Railroad.

I commend my colleague Representative KUCINICH for his hard work on this issue and this legislation.

Since its passage, the program's centerpiece in Cincinnati—the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center—has become a nationally important cultural center and valuable education resource center, reaching more than 160,000 school-age children and their teachers who have toured the Freedom Center. The changing exhibitions as well as the pre- and post-visit teaching curriculum have offered valuable opportunities for our children to learn from and be inspired by the lessons of the history of the Underground Railroad.

I am also proud of Amistad America, an initiative based in New Haven, Ct., which has been able to receive funding from the Department of Education through The Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program. By bringing together local organization advocates, educators, and historians, the Amistad America recognizes and honors the historical and educational significance of the Freedom Schooner Amistad Ship.

In 1839, 53 Africans were illegally kidnapped from Sierra Leone and sold into the transatlantic slave trade. The captives were brought to Havana, Cuba, aboard the Portuguese vessel *Tecora*, where they were fraudulently classified as native-born Cuban slaves then sold to Spaniards Jose Ruiz and Pedro Montez, who transferred them to the coastal cargo schooner, *La Amistad*.

While being transferred from Havana, Cuba, up the coast in the *Amistad*, the African captives revolted after 3 days and ordered the schooner to head east back to their native Africa. On the evening of the rebellion, the *Amistad* was secretly directed back west and up the coast of North America, where after 2 months the Africans were seized and arrested in New London, Ct.

The captives were jailed and awaited trial in New Haven, Ct. The case became historic when former President John Quincy Adams argued on behalf of the enslaved Africans before the U.S. Supreme Court, winning their freedom.

This summer the Freedom Schooner *Amistad*, a recreation of the original *Amistad* embarked from New Haven on its first transatlantic voyage to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

The journey is an opportunity to call to public attention the evils of slavery, the struggle

for freedom, and the restoration of human dignity. As with the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, each of these institutions remind us that even the darkest hours of our Nation's history can ultimately provide the tools for change.

STENNIS CONGRESSIONAL INTERN PROGRAM

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, for 5 years now, the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service has conducted a program for summer interns working in congressional offices. This 6-week program is designed to enhance their internship experience by giving them an inside view of how Congress really works. It also provides an opportunity for them to meet with senior staff and other experts to discuss issues ranging from the influence of the media and lobbyists on Congress to Congress's power of the purse.

The program is a joint effort of the Stennis Center and a collection of current and former senior congressional staff leaders who are serving as Senior Stennis Fellows. These fellows use their experience and expertise to design the program and to participate in each of the interactive sessions and panel discussions.

Interns are selected for this program based on their college record, community service background, and interest in a career in public service. This year, 29 outstanding interns, most of them juniors and seniors in college, who are working for Democrats and Republicans in both personal and committee offices in the House and Senate participated.

Mr. President, I congratulate the interns for their participation in this valuable program and I thank the Stennis Center and the Senior Stennis Fellows for providing such a unique experience for these interns and for encouraging them to consider a future career in public service.

I ask unanimous consent that a list of 2007 Stennis congressional interns and the offices in which they work be printed in the RECORD.

Yaser Ali of the University of Florida interning in the Office of Senator Bill Nelson
Sue Banerjee of Northwestern University interning in the Office of Representative Nick Lampson
David Bodner of Virginia Tech University interning in the Office of Representative Howard Berman
Andrew Briggs of Knox College interning in the Office of Senator Herb Kohl
Jeff Burdette of the University of Maryland interning in the House Veterans' Committee
Sarah Coppersmith of Washington University interning in the Office of Representative Harry Mitchell
Sarah Cummings of Bucknell University interning in the Office of Representative Phil English
Dominic Day of Vanderbilt University interning in the Office of Representative Donna Christensen
Marsha Dixon of the University of Florida Law School interning in the House Ways and Means Committee
Sean Evins of Rhodes College interning in the Office of Senator Jim DeMint

Jason Ferguson of the University of Florida interning with the House Homeland Security Committee

Jim Goldenstein of the University of Illinois interning with the Office of Representative John Shimkus

Jason Griffith of the University of Colorado interning with the Office of Representative Ed Perlmutter

James Holcombe of the University of North Carolina interning in the Office of Senator Elizabeth Dole

Lori Ann Holland of Mississippi State University interning in the Office of Senator Thad Cochran

Ashley Howell of the University of Southern California interning in the Office of Representative Ken Calvert

Jason Knecht of Shippensburg University interning in the Office of Representative Tim Holden

Jenna Kubecka of Texas A&M University interning in the Office of Representative Nick Lampson

Jaime Lee of the University of Southern California interning in the Office of Representative Howard Berman

Ashleigh Leitch of the College of St. Benedict interning in the Office of Senator Amy Klobuchar

Kaylan Lytle of the University of Tulsa interning in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

Sara Major of George Washington University interning in the Office of Representative David Obey

Daniel Mannion of Notre Dame University interning in the Office of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton

Dan Meehan of the State University of New York at Geneseo interning in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Robyn Meyer of the College of St. Benedict interning in the Office of Senator Amy Klobuchar

Matt Pollard of the University of Exeter (England) interning in the Senate Budget Committee

Jasmine Vasquez of the DePaul University Law School interning in the House Ways and Means Committee

Ben Whitehair of the University of Colorado interning in the Office of Representative Diana DeGette

Amber Woodward of the University of Pennsylvania interning in the Office of Representative Dennis Moore

HONORING PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS JAIME JAENKE

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Petty Officer 2nd Class Jaime S. Jaenke of Bay City, WI. Jaime courageously answered the call to serve her country in its time of need, and she made the ultimate sacrifice on June 5, 2006 when she was killed by an improvised explosive device that detonated near her convoy while she was conducting security operations in the Anbar Province of Iraq. As a Seabee reservist, Jaime was assigned to the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 25 based at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. Today, I bear witness that Jaime's efforts and the efforts of all our service men and women will forever be remembered. On Saturday, August 25, 2007, at the courthouse in Ellsworth, WI, a plaque will be dedicated in Jaime's memory.

Jaime is a true national hero who dedicated her life to helping and serving others. Beloved daughter of Susan and Larry, Jaime served as an emergency medical technician in Ellsworth, WI, before answering the call to serve in Iraq. As a medic for her unit, Jaime will be remembered by her comrades as a generous and compassionate individual. Friends and family will remember and cherish her caring and contagious smile and sense of humor. Jaime will be dearly missed by her loving daughter, Kayla. When we step back and realize the incredible service of our men and women in uniform, we must always remember Jaime, for she was one of our finest.

The men and women from Wisconsin serving in Iraq are doing a terrific job under very difficult and dangerous circumstances. They are simply the best that our nation has to offer. We will be forever grateful for the sacrifice made by Petty Officer 2nd Class Jaime Jaenke. She was a true patriot, serving her country selflessly while giving the Iraqi people the greatest gift of all, their freedom. She also gave the American people a great gift, the chance to live in a safer world.

As a mother, daughter, and friend, Jaime will live on in our hearts as a hero and her legacy will never be forgotten. I pledge to do all that I can to ensure that Jaime's life was not lost in vain.

Perhaps President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said it best: "She stands in the unbroken line of patriots who have dared to die, that freedom might live, and grow, and increase its blessings. Freedom lives, and through it, she lives—in a way that humbles the undertakings of most people."

May God bless Jaime, and take her into his care. And may God's special blessings bring comfort to Jaime's family and friends always.

HONORING CRAIG BIGGIO

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the amazing accomplishments and career of Craig Biggio. Over the past 20 years Craig Biggio has become as much a part of life in Southeast Texas as barbecue and high school football. The legacy he leaves on the field is only rivaled by the legacy he leaves off of it. He brings the same passion to helping children and the Houston community as he does in compiling career numbers that will surely land him in the Professional Baseball Hall of Fame someday.

Craig Biggio and his wife Patti have made a direct impact on lives of countless Houston families. By raising millions of dollars and offering his thoughtful support and leadership to Sunshine Kids he has proven a true role model for the kids in the number seven jerseys at Minute Maid Park. Trips to sporting events and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo have provided a moment of joy to families affected by cancer.

Craig Biggio would have fit right in with the baseball immortals, Williams, DiMaggio and Gehrig. Biggio has been accepted by Houston as one of their own by playing the game the way it should be played. He always played tough and hard-nosed, but respectful of his

teammates and opponents. While never one to be driven by statistics, his passion for the game has surely led to a spot in Cooperstown.

Earlier this summer, he joined the fraternity of select players to accumulate 3,000 career hits. He has collected four Gold Glove awards, been selected to seven All-Star teams and amassed enough career doubles to rank in the top 10 all-time. But most importantly to Astro fans are the team records he set in games played, runs scored, hits and doubles while leading his team to six playoff appearances in 9 years.

Madam Speaker, I am very proud to join with Astros fans across the country, baseball fans everywhere and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize the amazing career and character of Craig Biggio. In an era where we just as often see our sports icons in the news for the wrong reasons, Texans can be proud to have witnessed one of baseball's greatest performers on the field and a tremendous example off it. I will cherish being able to share in the joy of watching Craig Biggio stretch a couple more singles into doubles over the last few months of his career. It has been a pleasure to watch him play the game the right way. On behalf of this Nation, I am honored to recognize Houston Astro Craig Biggio on his 3,000th hit, a tremendous career and being a man of tremendous character.

FILM AND TELEVISION EXPENSING LEGISLATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleague from California, Congressman WALLY HERGER, to introduce legislation to amend Federal tax law to allow for the immediate tax write-off of production expenditures for domestic film and television productions with aggregate costs under \$15 million or \$20 million in those select cases where the production is made in a distressed community.

This provision, section 181 of the Internal Revenue Code, was first enacted in the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004. It was added to protect the U.S. television and film industry that is increasingly filming in foreign locations, such as Canada.

In so doing, Congress recognized the important contribution our television and film production industries make to sustaining jobs in communities across the country. These productions provide good jobs not just for actors, writers, and directors, but also for the local carpenters and electricians, the drivers and equipment operators, the caterers and hotel keepers who provide services to these productions.

Adoption of section 181 also represented congressional recognition of the fact that this vital sector faces increasing competition from foreign production companies whose governments subsidize television and film production.

In 2001, the Commerce Department's International Trade Administration reported that made for television production of "movies of the week" in the U.S. had declined by 33 percent since 1995 and that production at foreign locations increased by 55 percent.

The Directors Guild of America noted at the time that "globalization, rising costs, foreign wage, tax and financing incentives, and technological advances, combined are causing a substantial transformation of what used to be a quintessentially American industry into an increasingly dispersed global industry."

Section 181 of the Internal Revenue Code, allows production companies to deduct the cost of qualified U.S. productions immediately rather than capitalizing the costs and deducting them slowly over time. The incentive accelerates the timing of deduction but it does not change the amount of the deduction. In order to qualify, at least 75 percent of the total compensation paid for the production must be for services performed in the U.S. by actors, directors, producers, and other production staff personnel. Further, the incentive is not available for films that cost more than \$15 million to produce—or \$20 million if the film is made in certain distressed, low-income or Delta Regional Authority designated communities.

I believe that this was an appropriately targeted provision, designed to encourage television and film producers to stay here in the United States and keep those jobs in our communities. In the last decades, New York City and in particular my home borough of Queens have seen a resurgent television and film production sector bring new jobs and revenue into the community. This bill will help to ensure that those jobs stay here in the U.S.

The Center for Entertainment Industry Data and Research's Year 2005 Production Report concluded that section 181 "is having a positive effect on television production in the U.S." Since 2004, it reported that made-for-television movie production in the U.S. increased by 42 percent, while it fell in Canada by 15 percent.

Along with my Republican sponsor, Congressman HERGER from California and myself who hails from Queens, New York, the television and film industries are both major employers and major tax providers to our local, State, and national economies. This legislation works to protect these industries and stem the flood of production to non-U.S. locations.

Section 181 will expire in 2008. It ought to be made a permanent provision of our Tax Code in order to keep television and film production jobs in the United States.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the millions of children without health insurance, and the millions of seniors who need the added Medicare benefits in this bill, I rise in support of HR 3162, the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007.

Because the CHAMP Act will have such a huge impact on improving the health and well-being of millions of America's children and seniors, it is without doubt one of the most important pieces of legislation this Congress will pass.

As a mother and grandmother, I believe one of our country's greatest responsibilities is to

ensure the health and well-being of our children. The CHAMP Act honors that responsibility by providing states with \$50 billion in new funds to provide an additional 5.1 million children with health care coverage.

The bill also provides comprehensive Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment health services to all infants, children, and adolescents enrolled in Medicaid. These services, weakened by a Republican-controlled Congress in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2006, will help ensure vulnerable children have health problems diagnosed early and avoid more complex and costly treatment.

In addition, the CHAMP Act establishes a pediatric health care quality measurement program which will provide a long-overdue federal investment in quality and performance measurements. The grants made available to States will improve the delivery of health care services to children under Medicaid and SCHIP.

As a daughter, I have watched with concern the health challenges my parents have faced as they aged. Luckily, they have had the resources to receive the care and medication they have needed.

Sadly, this is not the case for a vast majority of seniors such as those in my congressional district. While they face many of the same health challenges that my parents experienced, they struggle every day to make ends meet, often unable to afford their costly medications.

The CHAMP Act helps these seniors by extending the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund, and simplifying and expanding the existing programs designed to help low-income Medicare beneficiaries pay for Medicare premiums and prescription drugs.

Of great importance is also the fact that this bill encourages wellness by extending badly needed preventive and therapeutic services. The CHAMP Act eliminates co-payments and deductibles for current and future evidence-based preventive benefits, gives parity to mental health services by reducing the 50 percent co-payment on outpatient mental health treatment, and ensures our seniors have access to physical, occupational, and speech therapies.

The CHAMP Act also extends agreements with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to allow states, including my home state of California, to continue providing services to our most vulnerable seniors through adult day care health programs.

As a Latina and a Member of Congress who represents a large multicultural constituency, I am also concerned about the barriers that prevent minorities from enrolling in Medicaid and SCHIP. For example in the Latino community, barriers such as the lack of culturally sensitive outreach efforts have resulted in keeping more than 70 percent of eligible Latino children uninsured.

The CHAMP Act addresses this deficiency by encouraging culturally appropriate enrollment and retention practices. The bill funds translation and interpretation services for families where English is not the primary language and authorizes community health workers to provide outreach services.

Finally, the CHAMP Act restores the states' option to cover legal immigrant children and legal immigrant pregnant women in SCHIP or Medicaid. It also amends the requirements for documentation of citizenship to allow a reasonable amount of time for families to gather the necessary papers and information.

As a proud American who cherishes the values upon which our country was founded, I believe this bill takes a giant step forward in honoring our moral imperative to ensure that age, race and income do not determine the health status of our children, seniors, and citizens with disabilities.

With the expansion of SCHIP coverage to millions of children, and the additional benefits made available to Medicare beneficiaries, the CHAMP Act may well be the most important pro-life bill the 110th Congress will pass in 2007.

I commend Chairman DINGELL from the Energy and Commerce Committee, and Chairman RANGEL from the Ways and Means Committee, as well as the dedicated staff members who have invested so much time and effort to craft this very important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to vote for its passage today, to honor our commitment to our children, our seniors and our citizens with disabilities, and to offer them the promise of a healthier tomorrow.

LEGISLATION TO UPDATE TITLE 46

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am introducing a bill to update and improve the codification of title 46 of the United States Code. Last year, Congress enacted H.R. 1442, which became Public Law 109-304. This legislation formally codified the various statutes in title 46 as positive law. As is typical with the codification process, a number of non-substantive revisions were made, including the reorganization of sections into a more coherent logical structure.

As with all codification legislation, that law restated and replaced existing law as in effect on a particular date. While Congress was considering H.R. 1442, it was also considering four other pieces of legislation affecting title 46. These other bills were drafted in conformance with then-existing title 46, rather than title 46 as it would be revised. These four bills were enacted after the date specified in H.R. 1442, and thus were not reflected in P.L. 109-304.

The Office of the Law Revision Counsel prepared this bill as part of its functions under 2 U.S.C. 285(b). It incorporates the four new laws into the codified title 46. It also makes other minor, non-substantive revisions and technical corrections to the codified title 46 to reflect subsequent public comments that were submitted too late to be reflected in P.L. 109-304.

It is important to emphasize that this bill is not intended to make any substantive changes in the law. It is intended simply to update the codified title 46.

The Committee on the Judiciary plans to act on this bill in the very near future, after providing an additional brief opportunity for public review and comment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 788 and vote No. 790. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both.

**LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT
OF 2007**

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, on May 29th, 2007, the Supreme Court ruled on Ledbetter vs. Goodyear. Lilly Ledbetter was a 19-year employee of the Goodyear Tire Plant in Gadsden, AL. After discovering a substantive wage gap between herself and her seemingly equal, male co-workers, Ledbetter filed suit claiming gender wage discrimination. While Ledbetter won the case in a Federal court, Goodyear appealed and the case made it to the Supreme Court. In a thin margin, 5-4, the Supreme Court decided that Ledbetter had missed her legal window. Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, employees have 180 days after an alleged act of discrimination takes place to file a complaint. While this 180-day deadline has commonly been interpreted to start over with each additional paycheck, the Supreme Court limited this right and claimed that only the first paycheck counts as the act of discrimination.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was one of the four Supreme Court justices who disagreed with the ruling, and she called upon Congress to act. H.R. 2831, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act is Congress's response. This bill will reverse this Supreme Court decision by making the original Congressional intent clear—renewing the 180-day deadline every time a worker receives a discriminatory paycheck. This strengthens measures to ensure paycheck fairness and to address unfair wage gaps through legal measures, as well as strengthening the rights of employees.

This ruling is in blatant disregard of how the average employment environment functions. It means that unless employees discover a potentially discriminatory action within the first 180 days of their first paycheck, or last pay change, they have no legal ground to challenge it. This ruling was made with the assumption that new employees enter their workplace with a clear knowledge of what their coworkers earn and that more established employees already know the wages of their co-workers. This is not the case. Many employees do not feel comfortable talking about their wages in the workplace, or disputing their wages too soon after beginning a new job. Moreover, many workplaces discourage their employees from discussing their wages at all. Yet, if employees do discover that they have been discriminated against, and it's past the 180-day deadline, employers have legal immunity.

While I respect the Supreme Court, I believe that Justice Ginsburg was correct when she stated that the Court's decision ignored real-world employment practices. This is not a gender issue; all employees should have an equal chance of getting a just wage.

I believe that Congress must find a way to fix the problem that the Ledbetter decision poses for employees who have experienced discrimination. However, I do not believe that this bill was the best way to accomplish that. By not establishing any deadlines after the initial hire date, Congress has now gone too far; similar to the Supreme Court decision, they have ignored the realities of the average employment environment. I agree that employees need more time than 180 days, but I also believe that employers need to be afforded some timeline as well. I hope to work with both women's organizations and businesses to find an equal balance—we owe both sides that degree of security about what our anti-discrimination laws mean.

**TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL J.
SALVATORE****HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Russell "Russ" J. Salvatore for his lifelong dedication to service and hospitality in western New York. As owner of Salvatore's Italian Gardens of Buffalo, NY, for the past 40 years, Russ built a restaurant that has become one of western New York's most famous culinary treasures.

Originally owned by his father Joseph Salvatore, Salvatore's Restaurant was first located on East Delavan Avenue and Harriet Street on Buffalo's East Side. In 1967, Salvatore's Restaurant was passed down to Russ and his brother, but it was not long before Russ pursued his own endeavors and opened "Salvatore's Italian Gardens" on Transit Road. Thanks to Russ's selfless devotion and passion to serve the public, he converted what was once a small pizza and hot dog stand into an internationally praised fine-dining landmark.

Russ's dream of running the largest fine dining restaurant in Buffalo became reality through his commitment and hard work. Today, Salvatore's Italian Gardens is one of the biggest, most impressive restaurants in the entire country. A perfectionist, Russ never tired from the day-to-day operations of his business but embraced and enjoyed every moment.

Under Russ's direction, Salvatore's Italian Gardens has been recognized with endless awards that confirm Salvatore's excellence in fine dining, banquets, and culinary expertise. The Triple A 3-Diamond Award, and the Millennium International Award of Excellence, named the restaurant as one of America's top 100 restaurants of the 20th century.

Even after signing over his restaurant to his son, Joe, in 2004, Russ continued to run the place and interact enthusiastically with patrons. Now that his business has been completely turned over to Joe, Russ has decided to continue making significant contributions to the western New York community by building

a new school for Trocaire College—the Russell J. Salvatore School of Hospitality and Business. Through this school, Russ hopes to educate others about careers and opportunities in the hospitality industry.

Madam Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to stand before you and honor one of Western New York's finest entrepreneurs. Mr. Salvatore's lifelong accomplishments have truly enriched the life quality of Buffalo and western New York. Russ, you have created a truly remarkable legacy, and I wish you continued fulfillment in all of your future endeavors.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY
SPECIALIST FOURTH CLASS
CHARLES E. BILBREY, JR.****HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

MR. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember a young but distinguished constituent, Charles E. Bilbrey, Jr. On July 27, 2007, Charles Jr. made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his country while deployed in Diyala Province, Iraq.

Charles Jr. was raised by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bilbrey, Sr., in Owego, New York and enlisted in the Army one year before graduating from Owego Free Academy in 2005. He was known by his family and friends for his playful sense of humor and resolve to join the Army. Full of potential and determination, he quickly rose two ranks during his two years with the military. Those he served with knew him for his bravery in the face of grave danger and referred to him as "a soldier's soldier." It came as little surprise that he had volunteered for the risky mission that ultimately became his last.

While no words can express the immeasurable debt we owe Charles Jr. and his family, they have our deepest gratitude and respect. Without the dedicated members and families of our Nation's military, we would not have the benefit of the freedoms that are evident throughout our country and the world. While we mourn the loss of Charles Jr., we salute him for his selfless commitment, valor, and unwavering military service to this great nation. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to humbly thank U.S. Army Specialist Fourth Class Charles E. Bilbrey, Jr. for his dedication and service to his country. May his family and all those who knew him seek comfort in his memory. He has left an indelible mark on his friends, family and community that will never be forgotten.

**FENTRESS COUNTY VETERANS
PAY TRIBUTE TO FALLEN
BROTHERS AND SISTERS****HON. LINCOLN DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, it is one of my great honors as a Member of Congress to attend ceremonies that pay tribute to our gallant veterans and to assist them in anyway possible.

On September 8, 2007, veterans from Fentress County, Tennessee will be in Washington, D.C. to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This special group will be comprised of veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Desert Storm.

During their visit to Washington, the first for many, they will also tour the monuments erected to honor those who have served. It is at those hallowed memorials where they will be to pay their respects to their fallen brothers and sisters.

Whether serving stateside or overseas, the men and women of America's Armed Forces embody the true spirit of what makes this country of ours so great. They have embarked on noble journeys to free many from the jaws of tyranny and oppression, usually at their own peril. They deserve our admiration, support, and appreciation.

In closing, I am humbled with the knowledge that others have paid such a steep price to give us the liberties and freedoms we all enjoy today. May God continue to look over the souls of those who have gone before us and look down at us with all his blessings.

HONORING THE CAYUGA, ELKHART, FRANKSTON, AND NECHES INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN ANDERSON COUNTY, TEXAS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor the Cayuga, Elkhart, Frankston, and Neches Independent School Districts in Anderson County, Texas for excellence in education.

Education is a fundamental part of the development of our Nation's youth. The Texas Education Agency recently released the 2007 annual performance ratings for schools across Texas. It is notable that the Cayuga, Elkhart, Frankston, and Neches Independent School Districts were able to maintain their rating of "recognized"—which is the second-highest possible rating.

Their performance illustrates the commitment and dedication of the administrators, teachers, and staff who provide students with a quality education. In particular, I would like to recognize the work of Superintendents Rick Webb, Glenn Hambrick, Austin Thacker, and Randy Snider.

Madam Speaker, as the representative for Anderson County, I would like to commend the Cayuga, Elkhart, Frankston, and Neches Independent School Districts for their continued achievements in education.

HONORING RICK CORNETT

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the dedication and achievements of Mr. Rick Cornett of Worthington, Ohio. August 1, 2007 marked the 10-

year anniversary of Mr. Cornett's leadership as Executive Director of the Ohio Optometric Association.

Beginning his career serving as a Clinical Specialist for the U.S. Army, Mr. Cornett has spent more than three decades working in leadership roles. His continued enthusiasm about eye and vision issues, disease and care is admirable.

During his tenure, the Ohio Optometric Association has enjoyed phenomenal success. The Association has increased their resources, public health initiatives and advocacy for expanding patient access to services and promoting the importance of a lifetime of comprehensive eye care. Mr. Cornett has spent 10 years dedicated to the profession of optometry and ensuring the care of patients. The Ohio Optometric Association is fortunate to have the leadership and enthusiasm of a director like Mr. Cornett.

I am honored to have this opportunity to recognize Mr. Cornett for his dedication and hard work over his 10 years of service and wish him the best for the next 10 years.

HONORING THE ALAMEDA CREEK ALLIANCE'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Alameda Creek Alliance on its tenth anniversary. The Alameda Creek Alliance is a non-profit community watershed restoration group within California's 13th congressional district. It was formed in 1997, after steelhead trout in the Central California Coast were listed as a threatened species. The organization has spent the last decade working to restore runs of steelhead trout and salmon to the Alameda Creek watershed, the largest tributary to southern San Francisco Bay.

The Alliance is working with a consortium of a dozen local, State and Federal water supply and land management agencies on projects to restore native fish habitat in Alameda Creek. The efforts of the Alliance have resulted in the removal of four obsolete dams from Alameda Creek and the construction of two fish ladders to allow fish to migrate to suitable habitat upstream. Another dam removal and construction of four additional fish ladders are in the planning stages. These projects will make up to 20 miles of Alameda Creek accessible to ocean-run fish for the first time in over half a century.

The Alameda Creek Alliance, which has grown to an organization of 1,400 members, has organized over 70 local and regional conservation and fly-fishing groups in support of the Alameda Creek restoration. The Alliance educates the residents of Fremont, Union City, Newark, Sunol, Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore, California about watershed restoration and protection of endangered species and their habitats. The Alliance also trains volunteers for fish rescues, creek cleanups, creek monitoring, and assisting biologists in gathering scientific data essential to steelhead restoration. The Alameda Creek restoration efforts have been featured in over 200 newspaper articles over the past decade.

I congratulate the Alameda Creek Alliance on their 10 years of exemplary service to our

community and send best wishes for continued success.

INTRODUCING MEMORIAL MARKER BILL

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce a bill that would allow family members to request a memorial marker for placement in a national cemetery in order to commemorate servicemembers buried overseas.

As Members of Congress, we all have the great opportunity to hear stories of duty and honor from our constituents. I had such a chance right after Memorial Day in 2004 when I received a letter from Henry Stad, a resident of Rhode Island and a World War II veteran. Mr. Stad asked that I sponsor a bill that would allow family members of servicemembers that were killed in action and buried overseas to be able to request a burial plaque to be set in a family burial plot in the United States. I was happy to look into this request from a man who gave so much to his country.

Madam Speaker, as you know, the United States currently has 24 permanent overseas burial grounds that are the final resting place for nearly 125,000 of the brave men and women who died serving our country. These sites are the responsibility of the American Battle Monuments Commission and are a wonderful tribute to those who sacrificed for our Nation. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs maintains that because these graves can be visited, there is no need to provide families at home with a memorial marker for their deceased loved ones buried there.

As a result, I introduced a bill that will help families memorialize those who died in service to our country and are buried overseas. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, those servicemembers whose remains are classified as "unavailable for burial" are eligible for government-provided memorial markers or headstones. While this classification includes those whose remains have not been recovered or who were buried at sea, there is one glaring exception to this definition—those who died fighting for freedom abroad and were laid to rest there.

Families are proud of these courageous men and women who answered the call to protect our country and then paid the ultimate price. Unfortunately, for many families, a trip abroad to visit their loved ones is not possible due to finances or old age. A memorial marker is a way to keep the memory of their loved one alive, while also teaching younger generations about sacrifice. We should not deny the families of these courageous men and women the ability to obtain memorial markers when we already do it for so many others. To correct this, my legislation will add overseas burials to the VA's "unavailable for burial" classification and finally let these men and women be memorialized by their families here at home.

Madam Speaker, this legislation will help memorialize those that accepted the call to protect our country.

HONORING THE MURCHISON AND
LAPOYNER INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN HENDER-
SON COUNTY, TEXAS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor the Murchison and LaPoyner Independent School Districts in Henderson County, Texas for excellence in education.

Education is a fundamental part of the development of our Nation's youth. The Texas Education Agency recently released the 2007 annual performance ratings for schools across Texas. It is notable that the Murchison and LaPoyner school districts were able to increase their rating to "recognized"—which is the second-highest possible rating.

Their performance illustrates the commitment and dedication of the administrators, teachers, and staff who provide students with a quality education. In particular, I would like to recognize the work of Superintendents Scott Beene and Eugene Buford.

Madam Speaker, as the Representative for Henderson County, I would like to commend the Murchison and LaPoyner Independent School Districts for their continued achievements in education.

INTRODUCTION OF THE METH-
AMPHETAMINE BEST PRACTICES
ACT OF 2007

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the terrible and destructive drug called Methamphetamine, or meth as it is more commonly known. Meth is destroying our kids, families and communities all over the country. The meth scourge is particularly devastating in my district, the 2nd district of New Mexico.

Over the past year and a half, I have conducted over 50 town hall, school, church and community meth awareness visits. We all have a responsibility to educate our communities, parents, teachers and families about the dangers of this drug. Prevention, education and support of our law enforcement personnel are fundamental to fighting meth. However, the fight cannot stop there. We must provide those individuals who are addicted to meth the best available treatment. We must do everything we can to ensure that treatment centers and programs that are equipped with the best practices and methods to ensure long-term success for people fighting to be free of this terrible addictive drug.

Unfortunately, very little is understood in the treatment community about the Best Practices for treating this addiction. I have spent the past few months talking to the treatment professionals throughout my district. Repeatedly I heard that no one knows what the best practices are or what tools are needed for treating meth addiction. While there are successful programs, there is no uniform understanding

of the best methods to ensure long term success. Research on treating this addiction must be undertaken in order to provide our treatment professionals, doctors and recovering addicts with the best possible chance for success.

To achieve that goal and give our treatment professionals the tools they need I am introducing the "Methamphetamine Best Practices Act of 2007" to direct the National Institute of Health to conduct a survey of research available to find the best practices for treating a methamphetamine addiction. In addition, I am asking NIH to report to Congress this information and tell us what other research may be necessary. It is imperative that we equip our treatment centers and communities with the necessary information to be successful in combating methamphetamines.

Madam Speaker, we cannot stop meth use here in Congress. We can, however, give our communities the tools to win this fight. This legislation today will give our treatment professionals another weapon in their arsenal to fight meth in our communities. I want to thank my colleagues Representatives LEONARD BOSWELL, ZACH WAMP, DARLENE HOOLEY, and MICHAEL MICHAUD for joining me as original co-sponsors of this effort. I strongly urge all my colleagues to support this bill.

POETIC JUSTICE FOR RAMOS AND
COMPEAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, when I was elected to Congress, I had an idea of how things worked in Washington. But after just a short while, I realized commonsense thinking wasn't exactly the "norm." In fact, it was going to take some creative thinking to get things done. For over a year now, I have been one of the ones leading the charge to free Border Agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Compean. I think our Government prosecuted them for doing their job and gave a drug smuggler a free pass. After trying things the old way—I decided it was time for some Poetic Justice, time to turn the tables and put a new twist on an old idea.

Last week, I, along with TOM TANCREDO and DUNCAN HUNTER, sponsored an amendment to the Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations bill to withhold funding from the Federal Bureau of Prisons to incarcerate Ramos and Compean. This effort to free these American heroes was supported across party lines and passed overwhelmingly by a voice vote.

Since repeated efforts to have them pardoned or their sentences commuted have gone unrecognized, I set out to find other ways for justice to prevail. By withholding funding to the Prison System specifically for the incarceration of Ramos and Compean, we have "tied the hands that fund them." This does not change the outcome of their sentence, but it will allow them to remain free while their case makes its way through the appeals process.

As anyone knows that has followed this case, the administration has been less than supportive of the idea of a pardon or commutation. The idea of attaching this onto an

appropriations bill is that the President isn't likely to veto the entire spending bill funding Federal law enforcement agencies because of this one amendment. Sometimes a little creative thinking allows you to beat them at their own game and save taxpayer money in the process.

As a former judge, I believe that it is important to uphold the law and I rarely argue with a jury's decision. However, the jury in this case wasn't privy to all of the facts and these two men were found guilty based on a partial presentation of the whole truth. You see, the prosecution's star witness was an illegal drug dealer who was fleeing Ramos and Compean after he brought in a million dollars worth of dope. The jury knew that, but what they didn't know was that he was given full immunity for that crime and an unlimited-use visa to come and go across the border unchecked anytime he pleased. And most important, another fact the U.S. attorney's office fought to keep the jury from hearing, was that during the trial he used that "get-out-of-jail-free-card" to bring in another load of dope. This is all information that the jury needed to know to judge the credibility of the witness.

This was the first time in history that Congress has intervened in such a way in a criminal case and it was not something that any Member of Congress took lightly. The precedent we are setting in Congress is that we stand for justice and I don't believe that this is something that we are likely to see happen again. Both Houses of Congress have investigated every aspect of this case and leaders from both parties have appealed to the President to take action—that alone is a unique occurrence.

If the President can spare Scooter Libby from prison, I think it is only appropriate to extend the same consideration to our lawmen fighting to secure our borders. Until then, we in Congress will continue to do our part to see that we right this wrong any way we can. After all, justice is the one thing we should always find.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING TREFETHEN FAMILY
VINEYARDS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Trefethen Family Vineyards for the award they have received from Decanter Magazine honoring Trefethen's 2002 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon as the best North American Red Bordeaux Varietal. This is a remarkable and worthy achievement reflecting Trefethen Family Vineyards' rich history of superb winemaking in the Napa Valley.

Trefethen Family Vineyards was established in 1968 when Gene and Katie Trefethen purchased the historic Eshcol Winery and surrounding vineyards in the Oak Knoll district to create a new estate. The family restored the original winery building, which was constructed in 1886 and is the only remaining example of a three-floor, gravity flow winery in the Napa Valley. In 1988, the old winery building was listed on the National Register of Historic places.

In 1973, John and Janet Trefethen opened a modern winery on the property and began producing small batches of premium wines with the help of vineyard manager Tony Baldini. Trefethen Family Vineyards 1976 Chardonnay was recognized as "Best in the World" at the 1979 Wine Olympics in Paris. Since then, Trefethen Family Vineyards has continued to produce wines of the highest quality, as reflected in this latest, international award.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate at this time that we congratulate Trefethen Family Vineyards and the Trefethen family for the award they have received. This award is fitting testimony to the family's commitment to excellence and their dedication to helping build on the Napa Valley's reputation as the world's premier wine region.

**HONORING THE RICHARDSON AND
SUNNYVALE INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN DALLAS
COUNTY, TEXAS**

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor the Richardson and Sunnyvale Independent School Districts in Dallas County, Texas for excellence in education.

Education is a fundamental part of the development of our Nation's youth. The Texas Education Agency recently released the 2007 annual performance ratings for schools across Texas. It is notable that Richardson Independent School District was able to maintain its rating of "recognized"—which is the second-highest possible rating—and the Sunnyvale Independent School District was able to increase its rating to "exemplary"—which is the highest possible rating.

Their performance illustrates the commitment and dedication of the administrators, teachers, and staff who provide students with a quality education. In particular, I would like to recognize the work of Superintendents David Simmons and Doug Williams.

Madam Speaker, as a representative for Dallas County, I would like to commend the Richardson and Sunnyvale Independent School Districts for their continued achievements in education.

**HONORING BARREN COUNTY,
KENTUCKY**

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Barren County, Kentucky, recently designated as the "Best Place to Live in Rural America" by The Progressive Farmer magazine.

Each year, The Progressive Farmer ranks ten top counties in rural America according to several quality-of-life indicators and statistics. Barren County won top honors for 2007, citing its strong and growing economy, great edu-

cation, superior access to health care, and low crime rate.

Settled by Scottish immigrants in the late 1700's, nearly 40,000 residents now call Barren County home. Rolling farmland and a strong agriculture heritage continue to influence local attitudes, consistently ranking Barren County as a top producer of Kentucky agriculture.

Located along Interstate 65 midway between Louisville and Nashville, TN, Barren County is ideally situated as a place to live and work. Local officials and business leaders continue to attract new industries to the region, establishing four industrial parks throughout the county to accommodate future economic growth.

Barren County schools maintain some of the highest achievement scores in the State. The county also ranks high in health-care services, attracting new doctors through a local residency program.

It is my great privilege to congratulate the citizens of Barren County, Kentucky today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for their example of prosperity and growth in rural America.

**TRIBUTE TO OFFICER GREGG
PASSAMA**

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. STARK, Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Officer Gregg Passama on his retirement from the City of Newark, California, after serving 20 years as a member of the Newark Police Department and over 33 commendable years in the field of law enforcement.

Officer Passama began his law enforcement career in January 1974 as a police officer for the Southern Pacific Railroad located in San Francisco, California. During this time, he was elected Union President to represent all Southern Pacific Railroad police officers. Mr. Passama also found time to attend the prestigious George Meany School of Labor Studies.

On June 1, 1987, he began his career with the Newark Police Department as a police officer. He also served as a field training officer and a member of both the Criminal Evidence Response and Trauma Support Teams during his career.

Officer Passama received Newark's Police Officer of the Year award in 2000 after being nominated by his peers for his compassion for others and his tireless efforts as a Newark Police Association board member, vice president, and president for two terms.

He has also previously held the positions of secretary, treasurer, and director of the California Organization of Police and Sheriffs (COPS), an organization dedicated to serving peace officers. He is currently the president of COPS, a position he has held since 2004.

Officer Passama transferred to the Training Department of the Newark Police in January 2001, where he will finish out his career as the training officer.

I join the Newark Police Department in thanking Officer Passama for his dedicated service to law enforcement and commitment to the community.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill, (H.R. 3161) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 3161, the Agriculture Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008. This bill provides funding to support our farmers, protect the environment, ensure a safe and stable food supply, and care for the most vulnerable members of our society. H.R. 3161 also fulfills the reforms included in the recently passed Farm Bill, by increasing funding for nutrition, conservation and energy programs.

I am pleased to support funding increases for important conservation programs for my home state of Rhode Island, including the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program, and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program. This legislation also restores funding for many programs that the Bush Administration's budget would have cut or eliminated, including Resource Conservation and Development and watershed programs. H.R. 3161 also encourages the expansion of renewable energy research and production by nearly doubling funding for renewable energy loans to businesses, resources for research, and grants to farmers and ranchers.

After recent food scares, Americans have become more concerned about where their food is produced. After six years of delays, I am pleased that H.R. 3161 includes a time line for implementation of country of origin labeling for our meat. This legislation fully funds the Food Safety and Inspection Service at the Department of Agriculture in order to fill vacancies and invest in research, and will also fund a transformation of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) food safety regulations. This measure also prevents cuts to FDA field operations and provides additional funding for processing generic drug applications and drug safety reviews.

H.R. 3161 increases funding for the nutrition title, which includes food stamps and other programs aimed to combat hunger and improve nutrition for children, the elderly and low-income Americans. This includes the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, as well as the Community Food Projects program, which awards grants to non-profit groups that establish community food projects targeted to low-income individuals. This measure also increases funding for school nutrition programs for purchasing fruits, vegetables and nuts, and creates more avenues for produce to flow from local farmers to schools. H.R. 3161 also includes funding to help improve the eating habits of Americans, particularly our children. It also expands the Simplified Summer Food

program to all states to provide nutritious foods to children in low-income families through the summer.

Madam Chairman, this legislation helps farmers meet growing environmental challenges, increases safety monitoring of our food supply, gives consumers more healthy food choices, and promotes critical renewable energy development. I look forward to passing this measure into law and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 3161.

HONORING THE ALBA-GOLDEN
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
IN WOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor the Alba-Golden Independent School District in Wood County, Texas for excellence in education.

Education is a fundamental part of the development of our Nation's youth. The Texas Education Agency recently released the 2007 annual performance ratings for schools across Texas. It is notable that the Alba-Golden school district was able to maintain its rating of "recognized"—which is the second-highest possible rating.

Their performance illustrates the commitment and dedication of the administrators, teachers, and staff who provide students with a quality education. In particular, I would like to recognize the work of Superintendent Bill Steward.

Madam Speaker, as the representative for Wood County, I would like to commend the Alba-Golden Independent School District for its continued achievements in education.

THE AMERICANS SAVING
THROUGH HEALTH RESEARCH
BONDS ACT OF 2007

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague Representative EMANUEL CLEAVER, to introduce innovative legislation to help millions of Americans save for their futures and at the same time lead to a healthier America.

This bill, the Americans Saving Through Health Research Bonds Act of 2007, would establish a new series of U.S. Savings bonds for individuals, where a small portion of the return would be sent directly to the National Institutes of Health to fund medical research.

Under this bill, when an individual redeems a "Healthy Bond", rather than taxing the interest earned, 10 percent would be sent to the NIH Institute of their choice for medical research. Like the successful semi-postal fund-raising stamp program, these funds will supplement the work done at NIH researching cures for the diseases which plague mankind.

Let me show you how this bill works. In FY2006, the Treasury Department redeemed \$14.5 billion in bonds, of which \$7.9 billion

was payments on interest. If 20 percent of those had been Health Research Bonds instead, that would have generated \$158 million in new National Institutes of Health money. If only 5 percent had been Health Research Bonds, that would have generated \$39.5 million in new NIH funding.

The NIH provides top-notch researchers nationwide with the support they need to conduct cutting-edge medical research.

This bill would give the American people the option to invest their own stake in the important breakthroughs being made in today's medical research.

But the bright future open to us by funding increased health care research is not the only concern this bill would address.

In 1982, the average American saved 9.75 percent of his income. Twenty-five (25) years later, the shift from using credit to buy asset-building items like homes to using credit to improve one's lifestyle has drastically reduced the rate of savings in America to almost negative one percent.

Madam Speaker, the future is unpredictable enough. No one should have to learn the hard way that long-term savings and investment are necessary for retirement.

Quality of life begins with financial stability. We must give our constituents the tools they need to ensure that their financial security remains secure in the future.

When Federal Reserve Chairman, Ben Bernanke, gave his report on the state of the U.S. economy to the House Financial Services Committee in February, he emphasized the need to make sure more individuals have access to retirement and private savings plans. Doing so, he said, would ensure that "we help people finance a reasonable retirement."

As people live longer and retire earlier, the costs of retirement are growing. Although more than half of Americans save and invest in the private market, only 1 in 4 people believe they have saved enough for retirement.

Savings bonds are a proven, reliable, and secure source of future income for Americans.

Today, Americans face an array of financial choices, whether they be monthly budgeting, planning for retirement, saving for college or purchasing a home. Under the weight of these choices many people do not know where to begin saving.

Madam Speaker, my legislation would help people to build assets that will meet a variety of needs over the course of their lives. What's more, this bill piggy-backs on the long-held American tradition of allowing individuals to attend to their personal financial health yet, in the spirit that makes our country so great, would give Americans the opportunity to do some good in the process.

The small percentage of the return that would go to NIH will give Americans their own reward for funding health research. NIH's 27 Institutes and Centers have been at forefront of some of our Nation's most significant medical discoveries, and in 2006 it was responsible for nearly one-third of the funding received by U.S. medical research.

Moreover, the NIH has the flexibility and resources to perform a wide array of disease research, from the rarest genetic condition to the common cold.

In partnering on this important legislation with a number of leading medical groups, I have garnered support from some of America's most respected minds in health care.

Upon introduction this legislation is endorsed by the American Association of Medical Colleges.

Madam Speaker, the bottom line is this bill would help our constituents feel at ease knowing that they are saving for their futures on more than one front. As well as securing their financial future, they will know that the money that goes to NIH for medical research will have a lasting impact on their children, grandchildren, and generations to follow.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill to create a partnership between saving for future retirement and fighting disease.

THE SOVIET BASKETBALL TEAM
OF 1972 AND THE VOTE TO
ALLOW ILLEGALS FEDERAL
BENEFITS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, slightly before midnight last night, the House of Representatives had a replay of the 1972 Summer Olympic Games in Munich.

Here's what I recall happened: A vote was being conducted on a Republican motion to recommit that would allow no Federal aid, such as food stamps, to be given to illegals in this country. This was hotly debated and then the votes started being recorded. The vote was close—most Republicans and a few Democrats supported the motion denying taxpayer dollars to illegals. Most Democrats opposed the motion. With the vote tied at 214–214, the Speaker called the vote and denied the motion. (A tie means the motion failed.) But the official electronic board on the House Floor that records the votes read 215–213—FINAL VOTE—meaning the motion passed—no benefits for illegals. But, the official vote was disallowed more time put on the clock and the Speaker announced the real final vote to be 212–216, after some Members changed their vote after the Final Tally.

In my opinion, this illegal action gave some illegals Federal benefits that only Americans and legals should receive.

In 1972, Team USA was playing the Soviets for the Gold Medal in Olympic Basketball. When the buzzer sounded, Team USA had won the game 50–49. But the timekeeper put 3 seconds back on the clock; gave the ball to the Soviets; who scored a basket, and the new final score was 51–50. The Soviets were declared the winners even though they cheated—Team USA refused their Silver Medals and walked off the stage in disgust.

Last night, I and over 100 Republicans walked out of the House because of the illegal vote giving illegals Federal benefits that only American citizens and lawful immigrants deserve. Both the Soviet Basketball Team and those that want illegals to receive taxpayer benefits will do just anything to win—by any means necessary, whether legal or not.

In both cases, Americans were not defeated, but cheated.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING LYNNE AND BERNIE BUTCHER OF LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the special efforts of Lynne and Bernie Butcher to restore and revitalize the Tallman Hotel, one of the most historically significant—but long neglected—structures in Lake County, California.

The original Tallman Hotel was built in the 1870s as a stage stop in the town of Upper Lake by Lake County pioneers Rufus and Mary Tallman. The hotel was part of a fullservice facility consisting of hotel, livery stable and saloon designed to serve passengers traveling to Clear Lake and the nearby hot springs resorts. In 1895, the Hotel burned to the ground but was re-built by Tallman the next year. The Blue Wing Saloon next door was closed and torn down during Prohibition in the early 1920s. The economic fortunes of the Hotel declined and the building was essentially abandoned in 1962.

The Butchers bought the derelict hotel in 2003 and were determined to authentically restore the building to its former glory. Using period photographs as a guide, they also rebuilt the Blue Wing Saloon and Cafe next door. Great care was taken to retain, recondition and reuse original materials and to maintain the essential soul of the old hotel building. In recognition of their success, the Butchers recently received an annual preservation award from the California Heritage Council.

The hotel is now drawing tourists into the county and the cafe is a very popular spot for locals and visitors alike. The Butchers have not only beautifully restored a historically significant building, but the project has also acted as a catalyst in the economic revitalization of the Town of Upper Lake and the entire north shore region of Lake County.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, at this time it is appropriate that we recognize and acknowledge the dynamic work of my friends Lynne and Bernie Butcher in restoring the historic Tallman Hotel. Their efforts have brought a wonderful building back into use, and in doing so they have provided new energy and excitement in northern Lake County.

HONORING THE MABANK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT IN KAUFMAN COUNTY, TEXAS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor the Mabank Independent School District in Kaufman County, Texas for excellence in education.

Education is a fundamental part of the development of our nation's youth. The Texas Education Agency recently released the 2007 annual performance ratings for schools across Texas. It is notable that the Mabank Independent School District was able to maintain

its rating of "recognized"—which is the second-highest possible rating.

Their performance illustrates the commitment and dedication of the administrators, teachers, and staff who provide students with a quality education. In particular, I would like to recognize the work of Superintendent Russell Marshall.

Madam Speaker, as the representative for Kaufman County, I would like to commend the Mabank Independent School District for its continued achievements in education.

HONORING THE GREENWOOD HIGH SCHOOL LADY GATORS SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Greenwood High School Lady Gators softball team. The Lady Gators won the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Fast Pitch Softball State Championship on June 9, 2007.

Greenwood High School defeated Ryle High by a score of 4-0 to win their first state title. The victory capped off an amazing season for the Lady Gators. They finished the season with a record of 40-5, equaling the most single season wins in Kentucky High School history.

Success is nothing new to the Greenwood High School softball program. The team has won 339 games since 1995, the fifth most in the state. Also, the Lady Gators have captured seven Fourth Region titles and nine straight District 14 crowns.

I want to congratulate Coach Penny Reece's team for their outstanding achievement. Their hard work and sacrifice has made all of Warren County proud. I look forward to watching Greenwood High School defend their State Championship next season.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER ALLEN CHAN

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Officer Allen Chan on his retirement from the Police Department in the City of Newark California, after serving 26 exemplary years as a member of the Force.

Officer Chan began his career with the Newark Police Department as a police aide in August 1981 and served in this capacity until his promotion to the rank of police officer in July 1983. He has held many assignments during his tenure, including: patrol officer, explorer advisor, field training officer, traffic officer, homicide detective, acting patrol sergeant, and range master.

He has also been an instructor, teaching several police related classes for over 15 years at Ohlone College and Evergreen Police Academy. He has also taught various subjects for the Newark Police Department's Citizen Police Academy.

Officer Chan is recognized by the court as an expert in accident reconstruction and is a member of the Criminal Evidence Response Team and the High Tech Crime Investigation Association. He has served the Newark Police Association as the president and secretary and the Newark Police Activities League as the Program Director, helping provide a variety of after school educational and recreational activities for the Newark youth.

Officer Chan was most recently assigned to his second term as the School Resource Officer at Newark Memorial High School, where his main responsibility was to ensure the safety of students and staff members.

I join the Newark Police Department, along with Officer Chan's family and friends, in congratulating him for his years of service and devotion to the City of Newark and the community.

HONORING THE CANTON, MARTINS MILL, AND FRUITVALE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN VAN ZANDT COUNTY, TEXAS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor the Canton, Martins Mill, and Fruitvale Independent School Districts in Van Zandt County, Texas for excellence in education.

Education is a fundamental part of the development of our Nation's youth. The Texas Education Agency recently released the 2007 annual performance ratings for schools across Texas. It is notable that the Canton, Martins Mill, and Fruitvale Independent School Districts were able to maintain their rating of "recognized"—which is the second-highest possible rating.

Their performance illustrates the commitment and dedication of the administrators, teachers, and staff who provide students with a quality education. In particular, I would like to recognize the work of Superintendents Jerome Stewart, Todd Schneider, and Bruce Congleton.

Madam Speaker, as the representative for Van Zandt County, I would like to commend the Canton, Martins Mill, and Fruitvale Independent School Districts for their continued achievements in education.

ALTERNATIVE FUELS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the State of Texas and the Nation recognizes the need for renewable and clean diesel fuel and other high valued synthetic fuels to meet the needs of the energy consumption in the United States.

The current problem existing with ethanol and other alternative synthetic fuels is that they depend on the weather and crops available to produce ethanol and other additives and cannot meet the current demand that is needed by the United States.

In addition to opening up drilling off the coast of the United States, our nation should determine new ways to address the ever growing demand for energy.

I applaud local businesses in my district who have taken the lead in addressing this issue by introducing technologies for production of bio-diesel products from vegetable oil, animal fat, by-products and waste.

The Southeast Texas region is home to some of the major refineries in the United States. Companies who take waste from these refineries (currently being disposed of in landfills) and old tires and converts them through their technology into non-toxic renewable ultra clean diesel fuel and other high valued synthetic fuels should be commended. This process allows for the taking of the refinery waste, which is an environmental problem, and converting it into a renewable diesel fuel that addresses our energy problem directly.

Congress can help make alternative fuel facilities financially feasible by:

Encouraging low interest private capital financing and investment for alternative fuel and ultra clean diesel facilities

Supporting the use of tax-exempt bond financing for activities associated with the development of alternative fuel projects

Exempting alternative fuel projects from the Bond Cap provisions of the IRS Code

Permitting accelerated depreciation schedules when structuring bond financing for alternative fuel ultra clean diesel facilities

Providing tax credit incentives to investors who purchase bonds to fund alternative fuel ultra clean diesel facilities

Considering a way to assist with funding the upfront start up costs associated with these alternative fuel ultra clean diesel projects, which would include the engineering and developmental research that needs to be performed prior to seeking commercial funding for the project. This could be done in the form of grants or low interest loans.

We need to take a course of action now to encourage these alternative fuel programs or we are just becoming more dependent on foreign oil products and will not grow or have the freedom to expand and meet our public's energy needs in an environmental friendly fashion.

Southeast Texas is the energy capital of our nation. We will continue to lead the nation's energy needs by utilizing off shore drilling, nuclear power and new technologies such as bio-diesel and other alternative fuel programs. It is important we support local government and local businesses to forge ahead for our nation's energy program.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING KAREN ROSS

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kelly Ross an exemplary teacher and citizen from my congressional district for being chosen as the Kentucky Education Association's 2007 National Foundation for the Improvement of Education Teacher of the Year in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Kelly is a language arts and journalism teacher at Barren County High School. She is also head of the school's English department. Kelly is a National Board Certified Teacher and past president of the Barren County Teacher's Association.

To receive this honor, Kelly was selected by a committee of former Kentucky Teacher of the Year award winners. The award also automatically nominates her for the National Teacher of the Year award.

The Kentucky selection committee highlighted Kelly's "professional practice in language arts; media and journalism, her advocacy far the profession; her leadership in professional development; her work to provide a learning environment that meets the needs far all students, regardless of differences; and community engagement."

Teaching runs in Kelly's family. Her mother, Frances Steenbergen, is a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at Barren County High School as well as the President of the Kentucky Education Association. I would also like to recognize her husband, Eddie, and their children, Campbell and Elaine for supporting her career.

It is my great privilege to honor Kelly Ross, before the United States House of Representatives, on being chosen Teacher of the Year in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This achievement is worthy of our appreciation and respect.

RECOGNITION OF TREDWAY CHILDRESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EMPLOYEE

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to share with my colleagues a noteworthy article about the fine work of Mr. Tredway Childress, a senior restoration specialist and finisher at the House of Representatives, office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Mr. Childress recently led the restoration of the century-old mahogany rostrum in Room 311 of the Cannon House Office Building, home to the House Ways and Means Committee from 1908–1933 and the current home of the Committee on Homeland Security. This magnificent rostrum was originally the centerpiece for debates and deliberations that surrounded the 16th Amendment and the authorization of income taxes in 1913. As a Member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I know firsthand that Tredway's handiwork in Room 311 has added dignity and a sense of history to our Committee deliberations. In addition, Mr. Childress has refinished numerous chairs and other furniture in the Capitol, including an original Cannon table 1907 vintage that I use in my Rayburn office.

Tredway was recently profiled by Don Williams, his colleague and mentor at the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute, in Woodshop News, an industry trade magazine. The article pays an important tribute to Mr. Childress. Mr. Williams notes that the restoration of the Cannon building rostrum to its previous grandeur could have only been ac-

complished by "someone with Tredway's remarkable combination of talent, education, craft skill and commitment to preserving past treasures."

Madam Speaker, I commend Mr. Childress for his outstanding service to the House of Representatives over the past 7 years and thank him for his dedication to make the furniture in my office, and many others', look more capturing than its original state. His commitment to preserving important symbols of our Nation's history will be greatly appreciated for many years.

[From Woodshop News, August 2007]

GIVING THE NATION'S CAPITOL A WINNING FINISH

TREDWAY CHILDRESS ATTRIBUTES HIS SKILLS TO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF WOOD FINISHING

(By Jennifer Hicks)

Tredway Childress is the iconic example of a woodworker meeting his maximum potential. Currently employed by the U.S. Congress, he is a senior restoration specialist and finisher for the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. He is part of a team that oversees all finishing and is the caretaker to over 2,000 historic items associated with Congress and past leaders, and is also regarded as a collaborator with the Smithsonian Institution at the U.S. Capitol.

A woodworker and furniture maker in earlier years, Childress, 62, said he reached a point where he wanted to perfect his restoration skills, particularly wood finishing.

"I have always worked with furniture; built, sold and finished it. The finishing part was always the hardest—the more I did it the more I didn't understand it," said Childress.

In 1998 he moved to the Midwest for the sole purpose of attending the National Institute of Wood Finishing at Dakota County Technical College in Rosemount, Minn. To this day Childress credits instructor Mitchell Kohanek, a wood finisher of nearly 30 years, for giving him the knowledge he needed to become a professional finisher. He is now confident he is capable of getting any job he wants in the field.

Kohanek offers short-term workshops, but his nine-month diploma program is the only certified wood finishing education program in the United States. It teaches students about wood technology; selection and application of finishes; application of dyes, stains, glazes and toners; color matching; spray finishing; basic and advanced finishing; spot repair of wood, leather, and vinyl, and last but not least, refinishing and restoration. Childress raves about how the program taught him the gamut of problem-solving techniques, such as how to deal with "orange peel" results and to prevent them from happening in the first place.

A year after Childress graduated in 1998, Kohanek informed him that the Capitol was looking for a finisher to hire onto their crew of tradesmen. After a year's background screening, Childress was hired and has been there ever since.

Recently, he was the lead wood finisher during the restoration of a historic Cannon Building flame mahogany rostrum, which housed the Ways and Means Committee as early as 1907. The original drafts for the Constitution's 16th Amendment and laws enacting the income tax were almost certainly drafted at this rostrum. It doesn't get much more historic than that.

This project allowed Childress to collaborate with Don Williams, senior furniture conservator of the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute and another of his mentors. The two first met during one of Williams' frequent visits to Dakota where

Williams teaches chemistry-intense courses in restoration and finishing with longtime friend and colleague Kohanek.

Childress returns to Dakota almost every summer for additional advance course work, and for years he and Williams had been looking for just the right in-depth project to blend their skills and experiences.

"The reclamation of the Cannon 311 rostrum's previous grandeur could have only been accomplished by someone with Tredway's remarkable combination of talent, education, craft skill and commitment to preserving past treasures," Williams said. "There aren't many of us around who can carefully remove a disfiguring top coat and leave behind the beautiful old shellac finish underneath, then blend it all back in with a French polish that almost literally glows in the dark without looking cheesy. But Tredway did it."

His work on Capitol Hill also includes re-finishing all chairs on the floor of the House of Representatives. On this project, Childress and his crew took off the existing coating and brought it back to its original shellac. They also decided to replace the gold painted molding with gilded molding, as had been done originally.

"Going through Mitch's school, I really had the knowledge and know how to do what needed to be done instead of just looking at it and saying, 'Let's put another coat on it,'" Childress said. "By studying and knowing the chemistry behind what needed to be done and understanding what you could and could not do, and making the chemistry work in our favor instead of stripping it . . . you just don't get out of a weekend class."

Childress is one of Kohanek's many students who went into restoration and conservation. Other graduates have found ways to make a living from finishing new wood or by becoming furniture service technicians who repair wood on location.

"There are so many opportunities for custom wood finishers because wood finishing is still to this day considered a mystic trade when it really is a blend of art and science," said Kohanek. "Once one understands how those two facets work together, you can use inexpensive wood and create an expensive look, or make expensive wood look even more beautiful. You also know how to repair and restore it."

Kohanek emphasizes that his certification program makes graduates valued wood finishing employees off the bat, and enables them to go immediately into their own business if they choose that direction. Like Childress, the best graduates of the NIWF are setting the standards of what should be expected of a wood finisher as they apply to any wood finishing facility, he concluded.

HONORING THE JOHNSON CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor the Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Church in Malakoff, TX, as they celebrate more than a century of worship.

The Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Church has a very storied past. It was first organized in a creek bottom on Abe Johnson's Farm in 1897 and has experienced many changes in more than a century of existence.

Six months after its inception, the congregation constructed their first permanent structure.

Oak planks nailed to blocks were used as benches and lighting was provided by kerosene lanterns. The Church would move to a new location on a nearby farm in 1915 and continue to meet in that location until 1926. In that year the congregation was forced to divide due to the threat of flooding as well as poorly constructed roads, which made travel to the church difficult. The remaining members stayed until 1938, when they moved to their present location. In 1944 and then again in 1968, the church was destroyed by inclement weather; however, after each misfortune the congregation was able to band together and rebuild.

Today, the Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Church continues to worship and serve the community of Malakoff. In September of 2005, the congregation saw another milestone when they appointed the Reverend Cynthia Cole as their first female pastor.

Madam Speaker, as the representative of Malakoff, TX, it is my honor to congratulate the Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Church for its more than one hundred years of existence as a place of worship.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO YAFFA DAHAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend Yaffa Dahan, who passed away on July 26th, 2007.

Yaffa Dahan was born December 29th, 1954, in Morocco. Shortly after her birth, she moved to a small town in Israel where she was raised. In a large family with nine brothers and sisters, she was brought up in traditional Jewish culture where music, love, and laughter were an integral part of her home. At age 20, she married David Dahan and moved to Las Vegas to start a family and a new chapter in their lives together.

Yaffa was a spiritual woman with an amazing personality, grace, intelligence and a sincere love for her family, friends, and our community. Yaffa was dedicated to education and eventually learned five languages, including Hebrew, Yiddish, French, Arabic, and English. She then went on to earn her MBA in business management and a Ph.D. in administrative healthcare. She then became a registered nurse, which she practiced for 28 years, touching the lives of many in southern Nevada. She was also a member of the Honors Society in Nursing at UNLV, and recently was honored as an outstanding alumna. She was a dedicated member of the Jewish community, being active in AIPAC and the Jewish Federation in Nevada.

Through all of these accomplishments, what strikes me most is the great number of people whose lives she touched. Her obituary, posted online through a local newspaper, gave an opportunity for well-wishers to leave comments. She received comments from former employees stating how she was a favorite manager who was admired for her talents as well as her passion. Included in these postings were comments from her local Rabbi, from family in Israel, and from friends from California to Wisconsin to North Carolina and many places in

between. She was truly an incredible woman who will be remembered by all.

Madam Speaker, I am sincerely proud to honor and celebrate the life of Yaffa Dahan. I would like to take this time to give my deepest condolences to Yaffa's family and friends.

INDIAN HELICOPTERS FOR BURMA

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I was deeply disturbed to read a recently released report, by European Union non-governmental organizations, entitled Indian Helicopters for Burma: making a mockery of embargoes? The report provided details on India's negotiations with Burma's military junta since late 2006 and focused on the transfer of Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) to Burma's military. India, the world's largest democracy, has increasingly spurned democracy supporters in Burma in favor of increased cooperation with Burma's military regime, even providing Burma's ruling generals with tanks, aircraft, artillery guns, radar, small arms, and the ALH. Absent any external enemy, Burma's military rulers have employed these arms and military equipment against its ethnic minority civilian population, resulting in the destruction of more than 3,000 villages, the use of forced labor, and the rape and murder of thousands of ethnic minority civilians.

Even more appalling than the increased military cooperation and sales between the Government of India and Burma's military regime is evidence that the transfer of military hardware risks violating both European Union and U.S. arms restrictions in place against Burma's military regime. Parts and technologies vital to the manufacture of the ALH were provided by several European companies and two American companies, Aitech Systems, Ltd. and Lord Corporation. It is essential that our government immediately investigate whether or not the inclusion of American parts and technologies in the production of India's ALHs and the potential impending transfer of the ALHs from the Government of India to Burma's brutal military generals violate U.S. export control regulations and the U.S. arms embargo on Burma.

The brutality of Burma's generals towards its own people continues to increase. It is obvious to all familiar with the regime's use of forced labor, its systematic use of rape as a weapon of war, its destruction of villages and livelihoods in its efforts to ethnically cleanse Burma of all its ethnic minorities, that the purchase of these military helicopters is for one purpose and one purpose only—strengthening and increasing military attacks against ethnic minority civilians. Already humanitarian aid groups operating in Eastern Burma have noticed a number of areas in which helicopter landing pads are appearing, a sight very new to the landscape of ethnic minority territory. These landing pads will give Burmese generals the ability to transport soldiers quickly and easily into areas where civilians are fleeing. The ethnic minorities fear that the regime plans to increase its attacks against them.

The U.S. government must take immediate steps to implement the recommendations outlined in the newly released report, including,

but not limited to, commencing negotiations with the Government of India to cease the transfer of Advanced Light Helicopters to Burma's military regime; discontinuing all future defense production cooperation with India that might lead to transfers of embargoed controlled equipment to Burma; attaching to all future licenses for transfers of controlled goods and technology to India a strict and enforceable condition, with penalty clauses prohibiting re-export to states under an embargo to which the original exporting state is party without express governmental permission; and drawing attention to the high likelihood of that military equipment being used by Burma's military to commit ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity in violation of international law including international human rights and humanitarian law.

HONORING ROBERT AYERS GOULD,
SR.

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor Mr. Robert Ayers Gould, Sr. on the occasion of his retirement after twelve years of service on the City Council of Athens, Texas, where he has overseen many projects benefiting his community.

After graduating from Athens High School in 1957, Robert joined the United States Navy where he served aboard the USS *Coral Sea*. Following an Honorable Discharge, he returned to Athens where he opened the Gould Insurance Agency in 1962, which he has owned and operated for over forty years.

Among his many civic activities, Robert has been the Director and Vice-President of the Athens Chamber of Commerce, Co-Founder of the Texas High School Basketball Hall of Fame, and the Charter Director for the Henderson County YMCA. He has also received many awards from his community including the Roadhand Award from the Texas Highway Commission and the Athens Citizen of the Year Award in 1984.

Robert is married to Mrs. Peggy Lorene Lubben Gould, and they have four children: Robert Jr., Joseph, Patricia, and Mary.

Madam Speaker, as the representative of the City of Athens, Texas, it is my pleasure to congratulate Mr. Robert Ayers Gould, Sr. on his retirement from the City Council.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MEDICAL
CARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with regard to H.R. 3162, The Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007, and in particular with regard to Section 502, "Payment Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Services."

Section 502 takes critically important steps towards ensuring that Medicare beneficiaries

have access to medically necessary inpatient rehabilitation in an appropriate treatment setting by permanently extending the 60 percent compliance threshold and by retaining comorbidities in these provisions. Section 502 prevents further negative impacts from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) 70 Percent Rule policy, which since the Rule's implementation, has deprived more than 100,000 Medicare beneficiaries access to inpatient rehabilitation care despite their meeting medical necessity standards. I strongly support this permanent extension of the 60 percent compliance threshold.

Section 502 also provides for a permanent extension in co-morbidities policy in ascertaining compliance with the rule. An estimated seven percent of the inpatient rehabilitation cases obtain eligibility through comorbidities. Reversing this policy would adversely impact both beneficiaries and providers. CMS, in promulgating its Final Rule for the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Prospective Payment System (PPS) which will be published in the Federal Register on August 7, 2007, has determined that effective July 1, 2008, co-morbidities may no longer be used to determine whether a provider meets the compliance threshold. The importance of Section 502 is particularly urgent in light of this recent regulatory action.

I urge the House to take a firm stance when conferencing with respect to the inpatient rehabilitation provisions of Section 502. More than half of the House has joined as co-sponsors of H.R. 1459, which I—along with my Colleagues Mr. HULSHOF of Missouri, Mrs. LOWEY of New York, and Mr. LOBIONDO of New Jersey—introduced to ensure that the 60 percent compliance threshold is made permanent and that the co-morbidities provision is extended. I take seriously the trust that has been placed in me by these other 221 House co-sponsors, and I ask that the Conferees do the same.

I also ask that the House safeguard the important provisions of H.R. 3162 that will yield critically important new information and data by requiring the Secretary to report on beneficiaries' access to medically necessary rehabilitative care and variation in that care across treatment settings. The reporting requirements also call for consideration of patients' length of stay and the frequency of readmission in evaluating cost effectiveness for an entire episode of care. These requirements accurately reflect the information necessary for educated decision-making, and we commend their inclusion in Section 502.

There are two issues related to the legislation which I respectfully request our colleagues consider in any future conference negotiations. The House bill currently fails to fix Local Coverage Determinations (LCD) and medical necessity criteria issues which have become apparent in various areas throughout the country. We should not deliver a bill that addresses the compliance threshold but fails to deal with the simultaneous problems apparent in large areas of the country—where Medicare Fiscal Intermediaries are imposing narrow and restrictive interpretations which further limit access to medically necessary rehabilitation care and disregard physician judgments. I appreciate the commitment to addressing these issues demonstrated in Committee. As CMS and its contractors persist in imposing oversight requirements on the inpatient reha-

bilitation field which are far in excess of those imposed on any other health care sector under Medicare, a more reasonable approach is needed. Congress should codify Ruling 85-2, as called for in H.R. 1459. I appreciate that Chairman STARK has shown his willingness to continue working towards a resolution of our concerns.

In addition, we strongly believe that Section 502 moves in precisely the wrong direction in making radical changes to payment rates for hip and knee replacement and hip fracture cases. We believe neither CMS nor Congress has the clinical data and comparative research necessary either on which to base this policy or to understand the impact of this decision. We should support accurate payments by the Medicare program that are based on sound analysis, clinical evidence, and aligned with the actual cost of providing high quality care. Instead, Section 502 uses the average per-stay skilled nursing facility payment rate as a baseline for calculating repayment in the inpatient rehabilitation context. Inpatient rehabilitation is fundamentally different and clinically more advanced than skilled nursing care. For patients requiring medical rehabilitation, these settings are not interchangeable. Therefore, the payments should not be interchangeable. Paying inpatient rehabilitation providers a lower amount bases on the rate for nursing facilities is contrary to the principles of pay-for-performance.

Finally, we believe that the overall changes in payment rates called for in Section 502 results in a disproportionate financial impact for the rehabilitation hospital sector. Inpatient medical rehabilitation accounts for \$6 billion in annual Medicare spending out of a total estimated \$437 billion in 2007. Scoring by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) confirms that payments to the sector will be reduced by \$2.4 billion over a 5-year period, and \$6.6 billion over 10 years. In other words, inpatient rehabilitation hospital reductions represent 41 percent of Part A spending cuts currently in the bill for a sector that represents a mere 1.4 percent of total Medicare spending. Inflicting 41 percent of the Part A spending cuts on this sector appears to be disproportionate.

In addition, it should be noted that the rehab hospital sector has already absorbed substantial cuts as a result of the phased implementation of the 75 Percent Rule policy. Data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) confirm that rehabilitation providers experienced cuts of at least \$300 million in the first year of implementation alone.

The Department of Health and Human Services and CMS initiated the 75 Percent Rule without direction from Congress, and have moved forward with the policy in an unbridled way. It is imperative that this Congress take the necessary steps to protect patient access to inpatient rehabilitation hospital-level services. A final bill must be more reasonable for the rehabilitation sector and fairer to Medicare beneficiaries.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to retain the 60 percent compliance threshold and co-morbidities and address the remaining problematic issues relating to local coverage determinations and medical necessity criteria, and our payment policies for hip and knee conditions, as the legislative process moves forward.

FARM, NUTRITION, AND
BIOENERGY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2419) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, I want to lend my support to the committee-passed Farm Bill, and specifically the provisions related to research. In my District we have one of the Nation's best research teams at Tarleton State University, and through the expansion of the research title we have the opportunity to use this resource and further address water quality and dairy industry issues.

In the bill there is an expansion of the Nutrient Management Research Provision to allow us to address "unique regional concerns" and "dairy cattle waste"—both of which are ideally suited for the work being done at Tarleton State University. Accompanying this expansion is report language that calls attention to the challenges and opportunities facing the Southwest dairy industry, and environmental security issues addressed through the Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research (TIAER) and the Southwest Regional Dairy Center.

This language will allow the Department of Agriculture to use a program such as TIAER for further development of cost efficient tools and policies for agriculture, with the goal of cleaner water through better science and research. This expanded language will also provide expanded dairy research initiatives in line with research already in place at Tarleton. The State of Texas has invested \$11.1 million dollars to construct the Southwest Regional Dairy Center at Tarleton to address the needs of the robust dairy industry in the Southwest Region of the United States. The Southwest Region is predicted to host the greatest concentration of dairies in the nation within 15 years. This rapid expansion will create unique economic and environmental challenges and opportunities. It's fitting that we, the Federal Government, also do our part in supporting this initiative by giving it authorization to further develop this regional opportunity.

The bill also provides for expanded research in the Chesapeake Bay, and TIAER is uniquely qualified to assist with the further development of this research activity. By using their expertise in water quality policy, monitoring, and modeling we can take advantage of existing research capabilities to expedite the goals of the Chesapeake Bay initiative. I hope these two programs are authorized and funded, as it would be foolish and wasteful to ignore and duplicate the experience and talent we have developed over the years.

It is clear that the research language is intended for the use in developing sound scientific, economic and environmentally effective research and watershed programs. Through programs like TIAER and the Southwest Regional Dairy Center we will see coordinated research with other research institutions and universities on watershed programs, modeling

tools, monitoring, applied research, and dairy cattle waste management to include bioenergy recovery. With federal assistance, the Southwest Regional Dairy Center will research, develop, and implement programs to recover energy and other useful products from dairy waste and identify best management practices in support of the dairy industry.

The research provisions expanded in this bill would place TIAER as the leader in watershed modeling and allow them to establish the International Modeling Application Clearinghouse. With this action we can save millions of dollars through coordinated research activities. If authorized, TIAER will also facilitate the use of the Center for Environment and Private Lands (CEPL) and Industry Led Solutions (ILS) under the direction of the Institute. With past Congressional funding, ILS provides for a group of commodity diverse producers from geographically different parts of the U.S. to examine environmental policy options for private landowners. This group has been proactive in examining environmental initiatives that affect agriculture.

I appreciate the Committee recognizing the need for the additional research in water quality, modeling, program development, monitoring, animal waste management and bioenergy recovery for the southwest dairy industry. While I continue to encourage expansion of this language to outline not only the work to be done through groups like Tarleton and the Institute, I realize this is the first step in making sure that quality research is not only scientifically sound, but cost efficient.

I echo the committee in encouraging the Secretary of Agriculture to establish these programs promptly so that we can soundly address environmental and water quality issues and how they relate to agriculture.

INTRODUCTION OF PULMONARY
HYPERTENSION RESEARCH AND
EDUCATION ACT OF 2007

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, today I join my friend KEVIN BRADY of Texas in introducing the Pulmonary Hypertension Research and Education Act of 2007. This legislation will expand research and training efforts for treatment and an eventual cure for pulmonary hypertension, while establishing a nationwide clinical research network.

Pulmonary hypertension, more commonly referred to as PH, is a silent killer that increases the blood pressure in the lungs to dangerous levels. As the walls of the arteries that take blood from the right to the left side of the heart thicken and constrict, the heart must pump harder and harder, ultimately failing over time.

Over the past 5 years the number of patients of this deadly disorder has increased from 3,000 in 2001 to as many as 30,000 diagnoses in 2006. Among them is my 22-year-old granddaughter, Charity, who was diagnosed with PH in 2004. In following her treatment, I know all too well the need for increased education of medical professionals. With the growing number of patients, new and more effective treatments are becoming avail-

able for PH sufferers, but effective management of this condition remains complicated. It requires the close supervision of a highly-trained medical professional, and someone who is dedicated to remaining on the cutting-edge of treating this disease.

I believe our bill would give the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute the tools they need to improve collaboration among the top PH research centers and to reduce the incidents of misdiagnosis. I am hopeful that this legislation would create avenues for disseminating new and life-saving knowledge among experts.

Madam Speaker, the causes of pulmonary hypertension are still not fully understood. And it pains me to no end to note that there is no known cure. We can not waste anymore time. We must act swiftly to save 30,000 vibrant lives, including that of my own beautiful granddaughter, from this slow and steady killer. I hope my colleagues will join me and Mr. BRADY in putting the full force of Congress behind this important research.

CREATING OFFICE OF CHIEF FI-
NANCIAL OFFICER OF THE GOV-
ERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN IS-
LANDS

SPEECH OF

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2107 fulfills my commitment to my constituents to continue the effort to create a Chief Financial Officer for the Territory. This is the third time that this legislation has been on the floor of the House. However, the other body failed to act on it in the previous two Congresses.

When I first introduced the idea of a CFO for the Virgin Islands in 2005, I did so in response to the concerns, complaints and distrust of government voiced by my constituents and as a measure to prevent the territory, which was experiencing a serious financial crisis, from falling into the abyss of fiscal insolvency. I believed then, as I do now, that having such an office in our government, free of political pressures and with the statutory responsibility and authority to certify revenue projections and prevent deficit spending, could assist our government to establish sound financial practices which would put the Islands on the path to improved financial management going forward. Because of our long history of poor financial management and practices, an office such as this would also help to immediately restore the confidence of the Federal Government and others in our ability to be fiscally transparent and accountable.

As I have said on this floor and in many other settings, in drafting H.R. 2017 I looked at the example and record of what having such a position has meant to the financial management and fiscal health of the District of Columbia.

After having decades of fiscal mismanagement and protracted deficits, the District today enjoys annual balanced budgets and surpluses under the stewardship of a Chief Financial Officer; an office that was voluntarily retained by the city after the mandated office went away with the end of their Financial Control Board. Both the general public and elected

leadership of the District recognize the benefits of having an impartial arbiter, free from the pressures of politics, managing their finances—something I strongly believe my community can benefit from as well.

When I first introduced this bill the territory's long-term debt totaled \$1 billion. Fiscal crises have been narrowly averted through repeated borrowing. Such borrowing and debt creation has led to the \$3 billion debt reported by Governor De Jongh in April of this year—a practice he has already stated he will not continue.

There are those, Mr. Speaker, who will ask why I am doing this at this time, particularly because the islands just 7 months ago, inaugurated a new governor whose background is in financial management and who has been a good friend and political ally. I want to be perfectly clear that I have every confidence in Governor John de Jongh and his administration and believe that they will do a first rate job of managing the territory's finances. He has already begun to do so.

I am re-introducing this bill because my constituents continue to see it as a necessary measure, and because, like the CFO in Washington, DC, it can assist our governor in his stated goal of paying our obligations and bringing the territory's finances into balance. It would also be a way to provide apolitical and indisputable information on the financial state of our government, as well as bridge any divisions between the administration and the legislature in the interests of expediting a positive and sustainable agenda for the people of the Virgin Islands.

As also happens up here, there is often disagreement between the Governor (and his financial team) and the Legislature as to the precise fiscal condition of the territory and the true revenue projections for the coming fiscal year. A CFO, in my view, would take the uncertainty out of this equation and allow our legislature and governor to work better together because they would both get their numbers from the same independent source. Additionally, the departments of government, semi-autonomous agencies and labor unions would be better able to plan, and the people of the Virgin Islands in general would have information on how the millions of federal dollars coming to the Virgin Islands are being spent.

The bill as being passed today contains certain changes. I have revised it with respect to providing a financial management system because such a system is already in the process of being implemented.

In recognition of and in deference to the upcoming constitution to be drafted by the people of the Virgin Islands, the bill before us calls for the term of the Chief Financial Officer to expire at the implementation of a ratified Virgin Islands Constitution or in 5 years, whichever comes first.

All four previous Constitutional documents have contained a provision similar to what is proposed in this legislation, and it is my hope that our Fifth Constitutional Convention will present a document for the ratification of the people of the Virgin Islands that will make this legislation unnecessary.

In conclusion Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and colleague, the Chairman of the Resources Committee, the gentleman from West Virginia, NICK RAHALL, without whose support this bill would not be on the floor today. I also want to thank my friend Ranking Member DON YOUNG for his support as well.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that "heavy is the burden that one who is called to lead bears". Pursuing enactment of this bill has not been an easy burden to bear but is an important one, which I am proud to bear. I urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 2107.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR FOR EFFECTIVE SCHOOLS ACT

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, educators and the general public cite disciplinary problems as the greatest challenge facing schools. Often schools respond to problem behavior with suspensions and expulsions, or by removing persistent troublemakers from the school. But research shows that punitive approaches to discipline do not work, and further, that they disproportionately harm students of color and students with disabilities.

One effective approach now being adopted by education agencies around the country is schoolwide Positive Behavior Supports (PBS). Research shows that schools implementing PBS can experience anywhere from a 20 to 60 percent reduction in disciplinary problems, an improved social climate, and increases in reading and math scores on standardized tests.

This Congress I toured Monmouth-Roseville Junior High, a PBS school in my Illinois Congressional district. I was amazed by how effectively the school decreased the number of expulsions and suspensions, and increased student attendance, classroom instructional time, and academic engagement. Even more impressive, there was an overall sense of shared responsibility for the success of the school.

Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Positive Behavior for Effective Schools Act.

This bill amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to provide the flexibility and technical assistance schools need to expand the use of positive behavior supports and other early intervening services to create a school climate that is highly conducive to learning, reduces discipline referrals, and improves academic outcomes. Specifically, this bill:

Allows State and Local Education Agencies to use Title I funding to implement schoolwide PBS.

Supports Safe and Drug Free Schools' programs that improve the whole school climate, prevent disciplinary problems, violence, illegal use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs, and that involve parents and communities in school programs and activities.

Trains teachers in the behavioral learning of kids and in methods that improve school climate.

Establishes an office of specialized instructional support services in the Department of Education to administer and coordinate support services in schools.

I urge my colleagues to look at the proven results of PBS and the positive impact it has on the entire school. Not only are we finding safer school climates in schools where PBS is

implemented, but we are also seeing a decrease in dropout rates, a more accurate classification of special education students, improved test scores, home and family life, and more productive students who are better prepared to enter the professional world after graduation.

Additionally, PBS assists education agencies with the challenges they face in meeting the requirements of No Child Left Behind, ultimately leading to a better educational experience for our kids. Educators, parents, mental health experts and academics all agree that positive behavior supports are good for schools, good for teachers and good for students.

This legislation is endorsed by the Advocacy Institute; American Counseling Association; American Music Therapy Association; American Occupational Therapy Association; American Psychological Association; American School Counselor Association; The Arc of the United States; Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law; Center for Behavioral Education & Research in the UConn Neag School of Education; Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder; Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders; Learning Disabilities Association of America; Illinois PBIS Network; Mental Health America; National Alliance on Mental Illness; National Association for Children's Behavioral Health; National Association of State Directors of Special Education; National Down Syndrome Congress; School Social Work Association of America (SSWAA); and United Cerebral Palsy.

Madam Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to enter into the RECORD a letter of support from these organizations.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting positive behavior in schools by cosponsoring the Positive Behavior for Effective Schools Act, and work with me to advance this important piece of legislation.

AUGUST 3, 2007.

Hon. PHIL HARE,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HARE: The undersigned national organizations are pleased to offer our strong support for the Positive Behavior for Effective Schools Act of 2007. We share your goals of enhancing student outcomes and improving school climate through the promotion of school wide positive behavior supports (PBS). The legislation provides a welcomed opportunity to strengthen the education system by helping address student's social and emotional barriers to learning.

As you well know, school wide positive behavior support initiatives help reshape school climates into more conducive learning environments appreciated by students, staff and school personnel. School wide positive behavior supports help reduce discipline problems as well as improve academic outcomes, including test scores. Your home state of Illinois is a pioneer in creating a statewide comprehensive PBS initiative, with implementation in about 600 public schools and research demonstrating its support for school success.

The Positive Behavior for Effective Schools Act will go a long way towards fostering effective learning environments. It gives schools the tools and opportunity to change how schools respond to students, reinforce desired behaviors and eliminate inadvertent reinforcements for problem behavior to help realize the goals of academic and social success for all students. Specifically, the

legislation allows and encourages schools and localities to support PBS as well as supports research, technical assistance and related school reform activities that improve school climate. Additionally, the legislation would establish a new office within the Department of Education that would help coordinate and administer activities assisting specialized instructional support personnel who provide a critical role in the link between social and academic outcomes for students.

Once again we applaud you for introducing this important legislation and look forward to working with you to secure its enactment.

Sincerely,

American Counseling Association, American Music Therapy Association, American Occupational Therapy Association, American Psychological Association, American School Counselor Association, The Arc of the United States, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders, Learning Disabilities Association of America, Mental Health America, National Alliance on Mental Illness, National Association for Children's Behavioral Health, National Association of State Directors of Special Education, National Down Syndrome Congress, School Social Work Association of America, United Cerebral Palsy.

ON THE PASSING OF DR.
SYLVESTER McDONALD

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise at this moment of deep sadness on the passing of Dr. Sylvester McDonald of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. On behalf of my family, staff and the 110th Congress of the United States of America, I extend my most heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of Dr. McDonald, affectionately known as "Dr. Mac." To those of us who grew up with his children and their extended family he was the much beloved, "Uncle Syl."

Dr. Sylvester O. McDonald was born on September 12, 1919, to John and Madalene McDonald in Kingston, Jamaica. In 1941, he left Jamaica to study at Howard University, where he met and married Eirene Canegata in 1943. This union lasted 60 years and produced 4 children: Genevieve (Rosie) Lambert, Judith Richardson, John McDonald, and Michael McDonald.

After graduation from Howard University Medical School in June 1949, and completion of an internship at Harlem Hospital in New York City, he came to St. Thomas where he joined the Municipal Hospital Staff on August 1, 1950. He continued his work there until June 1953, when he entered the U.S. Army where he served until October 1955. Upon his return to St. Thomas, he joined the staff of the Knud Hansen Hospital.

In 1958, he left St. Thomas to begin a Residency in Orthopedic Surgery at Queens Hospital Center in Jamaica, New York and the Hospital for Crippled Children in Newark, New Jersey. Upon completing the residency in 1962, he rejoined the hospital staff at Knud Hansen Hospital.

During his service with the Health Department he served in many capacities including Acting Commissioner of Health, Chief of Surgery, Medical Director and Orthopedic Consultant to Charles Harwood Hospital in St. Croix from 1962 through 1974. There he held Orthopedic Clinics on a weekly basis and performed Orthopedic Surgery when necessary. He also served as President of the Virgin Islands Medical Society, Vice President of the Executive Committee, member of the Clinical Pathological Conference Committee and member of the Accreditation Committee. Professional affiliations include the American Academy of Family Physicians, National Medical Association, and American Medical Association.

He also carried on a private practice in family medicine where he treated all who sought his help with utmost respect, courtesy, and patience. He retired from the Hospital in October 1982 and from private practice in 1985. In 1982, he began his service as Campus Physician at the University of the Virgin Islands which he continued until he was unable to do so.

Throughout his life, "Dr. Mac," as he was affectionately known, remained a very spiritual person. After his retirement, he attended Mass and Holy Communion daily, and served as a Eucharistic Minister at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish.

His favorite pastimes were spending time with his family, his daily walks and a swim or soak on Magens Bay.

Dr. Mac was one of the most revered physicians in the Virgin Islands. During his distinguished medical career, and through his various executive positions, he remained the epitome of the family and community doctor.

The entire Virgin Islands has been truly blessed to have had such a skilled physician and caring and compassionate human being as a part of our lives. We will be forever grateful for the legacy "Dr. Mac" has left behind—a legacy that will surely continue to inspire and positively impact future generations of physicians, healthcare professionals and all Virgin Islanders.

Madam Speaker, I know that entire Congress joins my family and me in wishing Dr. Mac's family the fullness of God's love and peace during this difficult time of grief. May they all be sustained by the many wonderful memories that will remain with all of us forever and may "Dr. Mac/Uncle Syl" rest in peace.

H.R. 2046 OVERRIDES BROAD
RANGE OF LAWS

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I received a letter today from a bipartisan coalition of family and faith-based organizations, who are concerned that powerful international gambling interests will succeed in negating U.S. laws that curb Internet gambling. I ask unanimous consent to place a copy of this letter in the RECORD.

Probably the most serious avenue of attack mentioned in this letter is H.R. 2046, which would legalize Internet gambling and provide online casinos with exemptions from federal and state laws.

Just one year ago, this body voted 317 to 93 in favor of the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, which went on to be signed into law on October 13, 2006. By enacting UIGEA, we emphatically decided that we would not simply roll over as offshore gambling operators deliberately defied our laws. We would enforce our laws, even when the websites are offshore, by cutting off the flow of money for illegal Internet gambling activities. At the same time, we preserved existing Federal and State gambling laws, including the rights of States to set gambling policy and regulate any gambling operators within their own borders.

H.R. 2046 does not repeal UIGEA per se, but that would be its practical effect. The license this legislation would grant to Internet gambling operators serves as an affirmative defense to any prosecution or enforcement action under any other Federal or State law. It brushes aside Federal gambling laws such as the Wire Act, State gambling prohibitions, and State gambling regulatory commissions.

The proponents of H.R. 2046 say there is an opt-out for States, but this opt-out is riddled with problems. First, State laws already on the books don't matter—the governor has to certify exactly what is prohibited in that State, and if he or she fails to make that certification within 90 days, then the State becomes open game for Internet gamblers. Not only is it bad policy to ignore laws on the books, it is probably unconstitutional to give the Governor effective unilateral power to set Internet gambling policy for the State.

Second, if the State were to allow any form of gambling online, it would be regulated by the Treasury Department, which has no experience in gambling regulation, instead of the highly-experienced State gambling commissions.

Third, the State opt-out would violate current U.S. trade obligations, so the World Trade Organization could tell the U.S. to drop the opt-out or face stiff trade penalties. The U.S. is currently trying to withdraw its "obligation" to free trade in gambling—which the U.S. never intended to make—but the process could take months or years. Until then, the offshore gambling industry could attack the State opt-out in H.R. 2046 in the WTO, as one of their attorneys publicly stated at a Cato Institute forum just last week.

Finally, keep in mind that NO State has yet legalized Internet gambling with foreign companies. If all the States opt out according to the laws they already have on the books, and if the opt-outs are not challenged legally, what will the international gambling interests have gained? If nothing, then why are they spending millions on lobbying efforts to pass H.R. 2046?

I hope that my colleagues will look past the smokescreen and see that H.R. 2046 could result in the greatest expansion of gambling ever enacted by Congress.

AUGUST 1, 2007.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: As a bipartisan coalition of family and faith-based organizations representing millions of citizens nationwide, we thank you for your efforts to protect families from the dangers of Internet gambling. Last year, Congress took the very valuable step of enacting the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006 (UIGEA) so that U.S. gambling laws could be better enforced on the Internet. We are concerned, however, about ensuring the integrity of UIGEA in upcoming months. We have three primary concerns:

Congressional support for strong UIGEA regulations from the Treasury Department, add list of illegal Internet gambling to FinCEN and OFAC lists, block transactions, create a system for reporting illegal sites to the DOJ (Internet, phone, mail), enforce prosecution of illegal online gambling operations.

Your support of UIGEA's integrity and your opposition to contrary legislation.

Congressional support for U.S. withdrawal from WTO obligations that jeopardize UIGEA.

Internet gambling represents the most invasive and addictive form of gambling in history. Speed, accessibility, availability and anonymity make Internet gambling the perfect storm for gambling addiction. Internet gambling also creates fertile ground for criminal activity and threatens homeland security by potentially funding terrorist activity.

More than 230 million Americans access the Internet, many of whom are children and adolescents. Internet gambling extends beyond state borders, beyond democratically enacted laws and is piped directly into millions of homes. Before Congress passed UIGEA, nearly 3,000 online casinos could be accessed instantly with the click of a mouse.

Since its passage, UIGEA has severely cut unlawful U.S. profits to foreign gambling interests. Now these Internet casino operations are willing to spend millions of dollars influencing Congress to gain legal access into U.S. homes. In fact, the UC Group (a leading payment-service provider in the U.K.) claims to be "leading the initiative" behind Rep. Barney Frank's bill, H.R. 2046. The misinformation campaign is in full swing, and Congress is the target. You should be aware of several bills that threaten the integrity of UIGEA:

Rep. Frank's bill H.R. 2046—far-reaching legalization of Internet gambling, providing online casinos with exemptions from federal and state laws.

Rep. Wexler's bill H.R. 2610—exempts poker and "games of skill" from UIGEA.

Rep. McDermott's bill H.R. 2607—licenses and taxes Internet casinos.

Foreign gambling interests are also pressuring the World Trade Organization (WTO) to force the U.S. to legalize Internet gambling. They claim that the U.S. is obligated to legalize gambling because it committed to free trade in "recreational services," and a WTO panel agreed. Now the U.S. is seeking to amend its trade commitments to make clear that Congress never intended to turn over to the WTO its right to set gambling policy. Congress should return the favor to the U.S. Trade Representative by supporting these negotiations.

Again, thank you for your time and service in preserving families. We hope for your ongoing support of the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act in the upcoming months.

Sincerely,

TOM MINNERY,
*Senior Vice President,
Focus on the Family
Action.*

GUY C. CLARK,
*Chairman, National
Coalition Against
Legalized Gambling.*

GARY BAUER,
*President, American
Values.*

ROBERTA COMBS,
*President, Christian
Coalition of America.*

PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY,
*President and Founder,
Eagle Forum.*

TOM MCCLUSKY,
*Vice President for
Government Affairs,
Family Research
Council.*

KEITH WIEBE,
*President, American
Association of Christian
Schools.*

DONALD E. WILDMON,
*Executive Director and
Founder, American
Family Association.*

ENSURING MILITARY READINESS THROUGH STABILITY AND PRE- DICTABILITY DEPLOYMENT POL- ICY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 3159. If it were a sincere attempt to address deployment-to-dwell schedules, I would be inclined to support it. Our troops have been rotating frequently; it is a serious issue that calls for a serious discussion.

H.R. 3159, however, is yet another sound bite masquerading as policy, and is illustrative of the entire congressional debate on Iraq thus far.

Not once have we had a serious deliberation regarding how to extricate ourselves from our current dilemma. We have only considered take-it-or-leave-it measures designed to inflict political damage; we have yet to make a serious attempt to find consensus on the most vexing foreign policy conundrum of our time.

I am dissatisfied with the conduct of the war, and I am eager to see an end to the casualties. Regardless, we must accept the fact that our actions will have long term consequences for the United States, for Iraq, and the entire Middle East. We must put more thought into our exit than we did our entrance to Iraq; legislation like H.R. 3159 does not suffice.

Yesterday at the Rules Committee, my colleague FRANK WOLF offered an amendment expressing the sense of Congress that the way forward in Iraq would be to implement the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group. I was a cosponsor of this amendment, and I was disappointed the Rules Committee yet again denied us an opportunity to debate this important measure.

Madam Speaker, we are in a difficult spot in Iraq. In such circumstances, it makes sense to gather the best minds our country has to offer, from across the political spectrum, and ask their advice as to how we should proceed. That's what we did when we created the Iraq Study Group, and their recommendations represent a blueprint for an orderly way out of Iraq.

In my opinion, we should embrace these recommendations. At a minimum, we should debate them. I continue to look forward to the day that occurs.

Despite my misgivings, I would have supported this legislation had the majority supported the motion to recommit. This stipulated the deployment timetables proposed by the

Democratic majority could go into effect. The Secretary of Defense, however, would have to certify they would not cause the tour of any unit already deployed to be extended. He would also have to certify they would not increase the operational risk to any deployed unit.

These were common sense measures worthy of support. Unfortunately, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle rejected them, and I am compelled to vote against the bill.

ENSURING MILITARY READINESS THROUGH STABILITY AND PRE- DICTABILITY DEPLOYMENT POL- ICY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I voted in support of the Ensuring Military Readiness Through Stability and Predictability Deployment Policy Act of 2007, which mandates a minimum period of rest and recuperation for units and members of the regular and reserve components of the Armed Forces between deployments to Iraq.

At a time when our generals warn that the Army is at a breaking point, this is an important stand in support of troop readiness and keeping faith with our military families. It is also another step forward in forcing the responsible drawdown of our troops from Iraq and ending the war. I believe we must bring our troops home as quickly as possible and work to stabilize Iraq through political and diplomatic efforts. I will continue to support any legislation that moves us closer to the end of this national nightmare.

TRIBUTE OF DR. GEORGE V.
IRONS, JR.

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I would like to commend the outstanding achievements of Dr. George V. Irons Jr., native Alabamian, who has treated the hearts of Americans, literally, for over five decades as one of our nation's foremost cardiologists.

Dr. Irons' accomplishments began at an early age. As a high school junior, he won the prestigious Bausch and Lomb National Science Award, based on a nationwide scientific talent search—written competitive examinations sponsored by the University of Rochester, New York. He graduated from Woodlawn High School with a straight "A" record—first in his class—and served as president of his student body. At Howard College (now Samford University), he completed a rigorous four year pre-med curriculum in 35 months with a perfect 4.0 G.P.A. For his excellence in scholarship, leadership and service, he was awarded the John R. Mott Trophy, and as the outstanding graduating senior he won the Birmingham Exchange Club Trophy, Danforth Award, and ODK National Award. He

also found time to letter in varsity track; the mile relay team of which he was a part won their conference championship.

Dr. Irons graduated from the University of Alabama Medical College at Birmingham with a straight "A" record. While in medical school, he was selected by the American Medical Association as one of the top two medical students in the country. For his superior scholastic record, leadership and service he received the Alabama Medical School's Stuart Graves Award.

Since then his professional accomplishments have been truly phenomenal. After duty as flight surgeon (Captain, U.S. Air Force), and internship, Barnes Hospital, St. Louis, Missouri, Dr. Irons served as Chief Resident in Cardiology, University of Chicago (Billings Hospital). Dr. Irons then joined the Duke University Medical School Faculty in 1964, where he was named Fellow in Cardiovascular Diseases. Since 1966, he has been in active practice in Charlotte, North Carolina, as the first board certified cardiologist in western North Carolina. Dr. Irons is Founder and President of Mid-Carolina Cardiology, the premiere coronary care provider in the Carolinas, serving some ten cities in several states. He begins his sixth decade of active practice.

Having published in leading medical journals here and internationally, he was honored by induction as a Fellow into the American College of Cardiology and received a special citation Award of Merit from the National Association of Cardiologists for his research contributions to the science of coronary disease. For distinctive scientific accomplishments, he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Alpha Epsilon Delta National Pre-Medical Society.

He has served the Nation in numerous medical associations, such as the Alabama Medical Association, American Society of Internal Medicine, Council on Clinical Cardiology (Fellow), American College of Physicians (Fellow), American Heart Association (Fellow), and the American Board of Internal Medicine (Diplomate), Alpha Omega Alpha (President).

Recently the State of North Carolina honored Dr. Irons for his half-century of service as eminent cardiologist, President and Founder Mid-Carolina Cardiology, and as the first board certified cardiologist in western North Carolina. He was also honored by his home state. The State of Alabama, on February 28, 2007, by Joint House Senate Resolution, honored him for his lifetime of achievements as distinguished cardiologist and for his notable research contributions to the science of coronary disease.

Madam Speaker, I commend Dr. Irons lifetime scientific achievements, distinguished research and his superior devotion to optimal patient care. His dedication and exploration in the science of coronary diseases to provide a better life through improved medical technology and treatment, reflect great credit upon all who serve our Nation in his profession.

Madam Speaker, I view Dr. Irons as America's foremost cardiologist and proudly salute him for the nationwide impact of his work.

HONEST LEADERSHIP AND OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, Section 213 provides that Congress will receive annual reports regarding the extent to which lobbyists, lobbying firms and other registrants are complying with the amended Lobbying Disclosure Act.

Under Section 213(a), the Comptroller General will annually review random samples of publicly-available registrations and reports filed by lobbyists, lobbying firms, and registrants and evaluate compliance by those individuals and entities with the Act. The use of the term "publicly available" in Section 213(a) is designed to ensure that the registrations and reports that the Comptroller General samples are the same registration and reports that are available to the public. Furthermore, the term "publicly available" also requires the Comptroller General to obtain copies of the registration and reports from the same public websites and in the same manner as the public obtains that information. This will better ensure that the information evaluated by the Comptroller General will be identical to the information the public obtains. Accordingly, Section 213 does not authorize the Comptroller General to request information from the Clerk of the House of Representatives or the Secretary of the Senate, except pursuant to the same methods and procedures by which the public requests or obtains such information. Section 213 therefore does not authorize the Comptroller General to audit, investigate or review the Clerk's and/or Secretary's compliance with the Act, or their receipt, compilation, or dissemination, and/or review of information filed under the Act.

The Comptroller General is expected to use appropriate judgment in assessing the size of the random sample and the manner of identifying the sample. The Comptroller General should ensure that the size and manner of its random sampling are designed to ensure that the sample adequately represents a fair and complete cross-section of all registrations and reports filed pursuant to the Act.

Section 213(b) provides that the Comptroller General will submit annual reports by each April 1 to the Congress identifying the results of its analyses of the random samples, and also providing recommendations to the Congress to improve compliance with the Act by lobbyists, lobbying firms, and registrants. The reports shall also assess whether and to what extent the Department of Justice has sufficient resources and statutory authority to enforce the Act and, if not, recommendations regarding what specific resources or authorities Congress should provide to the Department of Justice. In complying with this Section, it is expected that the Comptroller General will consult with the Department of Justice.

Section 213(c) provides the Comptroller General with the tools necessary to evaluate whether the information included by lobbyists, lobbying firms and registrants in the reports filed under this Act is accurate and complete, and thus whether these individuals and entities are complying with the Act. This sub-

section thus authorizes the Comptroller General to request and receive information from lobbyists, lobbying firms and registrants (and their employees). The information the Comptroller General may request from lobbyists, lobbying firms and registrants is broad and need only relate to the purposes of the Act. In other words, the Comptroller General is expected to request sufficient documentation from lobbyists, lobbying firms and registrants to fully evaluate whether the information contained on the registrations and reports filed by the lobbyists, lobbying firms and registrants is accurate and complete. This will often necessarily entail more information from the lobbyists, lobbying firms and registrants than is contained within the reports.

Section 301 prohibits House Members from engaging in any agreements or negotiations with regard to future employment or salary until his or her successor has been selected unless he or she, within 3 business days after the commencement of such negotiations or agreements, files a signed statement disclosing the nature of such negotiations or agreements, the name of the private entity or entities involved, and the date such negotiations commenced with the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. It requires senior staff to notify the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct within 3 days if they engage in negotiations or agreements for future employment or compensation. The prospective employment or compensation negotiations or agreements in Section 301 are intended to refer only to those conducted with a private entity or private entities. Additionally, the negotiations and agreements referenced are intended to refer to actual bargaining over the terms of possible employment.

Section 305 provides that Members shall be prohibited from attending national political convention parties that are held in their honor if such parties have been paid for by a lobbyist, or an entity that employs lobbyists, unless the Member is the party's presidential or vice presidential nominee. This provision will have the effect of preventing lobbyists or an entity employing such lobbyists from directly paying for a party to honor a specific Member.

SUCCESS OF TITLE V FUNDING IN SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Title V Abstinence Education program, and support its reauthorization. Without action by Congress, this important program will expire on September 30, 2007. This program provides the States that choose to accept these dollars with funding to implement abstinence education programs. In FY 2006, the State of South Carolina received over \$750,000 in Title V funding.

Abstinence education is working in South Carolina. A sharp decline in teen pregnancy began in 1996 after the South Carolina law established a policy that all the Title V, Section 510 dollars were to be used to implement a statewide strategy that stresses the importance of abstaining until marriage. Additionally,

South Carolina set a goal to create a replicable plan with intense evaluation and feedback to be used statewide. Since the initiation of abstinence education in South Carolina, 9 years ago, South Carolina teen pregnancy rates have been reduced by 35 percent, falling from 53 (per 1,000) in 1996 to 34.3 in 2005 among 15- to 17-year-olds.

Parents nationwide prefer abstinence education over so-called "comprehensive" sex education by a 2 to 1 margin, regardless of political or religious affiliation, according to a recent Zogby poll. Abstinence education is defined by its exclusive purpose of teaching the social, psychological and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity until marriage. Abstinence education permits an age-appropriate discussion of contraception, but within the context of promoting abstinence as the healthiest choice.

I am concerned that the program as reauthorized in the SCHIP bill contains new requirements for medical accuracy and proven effectiveness. These new requirements apply only to abstinence education. Placing accountability on all adolescent health programs funded by the Federal Government is an appropriate standard for the spending of Federal tax-dollars and the protection of children's health. These funds must be based on health outcomes and equally applied to all federally funded adolescent health programs.

Reauthorization of the Title V Abstinence Education Program and funding is critical in supporting the majority of communities who wish to promote the optimal health message for our Nation's youth. Title V Abstinence Education is working in South Carolina, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting a reauthorization of the program as it was originally designed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WEATHER MITIGATION RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Weather Mitigation Research and Technology Transfer Authorization Act. This bill will increase and enhance research and development in weather mitigation to better understand its effectiveness in addressing drought in our country.

The western part of our country, including my own State of Colorado, has experienced drought conditions in recent years. Efforts have been made to address drought recovery, preparedness, and alleviation. Weather mitigation, which means the use of artificial methods to change or control the natural formation of cloud forms or precipitation forms, causing, for example, snowpack augmentation or rain enhancement, could also contribute to solving this problem. However, little fundamental research has been done to better understand weather mitigation and modification.

The National Academies of Science report Critical Issues in Weather Modification Research, released in 2003, noted that there is no scientific proof that weather modification or mitigation is effective; however, the report at-

tributes this to a lack of understanding of "critical atmospheric processes" that have caused unpredictable results with weather mitigation, not a lack of success with such efforts. The report called for a national program for a sustained research effort in weather modification and mitigation research to enhance the effectiveness and predictability of weather mitigation.

There is currently no federal investment in weather mitigation, though there are private funds that are largely going toward unproven techniques. My bill, similar to a bill introduced in the Senate by Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, establishes a federal research and development effort to improve our understanding of the atmosphere and develop more effective weather modification technologies and techniques.

In my own State, the Denver Water Department, which has been impacted by the prolonged drought conditions, implemented a cloud seeding program to help increase the snowpack in its watersheds along the mountains of the Front Range. This was not a major program, but it was an attempt to modify the drought conditions for the benefit of the over 2.5 million people in the Denver area that are served by Denver Water. This bill would help augment these types of efforts by promoting greater research into how best to employ such techniques in a safe and effective manner.

Specifically, the bill creates a Weather Mitigation Advisory and Research Board in the Department of Commerce to promote the "theoretical and practical knowledge of weather mitigation" through the funding of research and development projects. The board will be made up of representatives from the American Meteorological Society, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Center for Atmospheric Research, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a higher education institution, and a state which is currently supporting operational weather modification projects.

In Colorado, a large portion of our water source comes from the snowpack runoff each year. A better understanding of weather mitigations has the potential to enhance our snowpacks, and thus assist in addressing drought concerns.

But the needs for this research extend beyond the western United States. The need for this research is becoming even more urgent with the reports that other countries are successfully exploring this area of research. China in particular has focused on the possibility that weather mitigation technology would allow the government to control the weather during the Beijing Olympics in 2008. The Chinese already spend more than \$50 million annually on weather mitigation. As the weather conditions in China can have an impact on North American weather as well, we must understand how these changes will change our weather. This is quickly becoming an issue of national and economic security.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support the expansion of the research and development of weather mitigation and urge a swift passage of this bill.

BLUE DIAMOND GROWERS

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, on behalf of Representative KEVIN MCCARTHY and myself, I would like to address remarks that were made on the House floor concerning a grower owned nonprofit marketing cooperative in our districts.

Yesterday, during debate related to the 2008 Agriculture Appropriations bill, inaccurate information was conveyed that undermined the integrity of Blue Diamond Growers. I take this opportunity to provide clarifying facts to my colleagues.

Blue Diamond is approaching its 100th anniversary as a nonprofit marketing cooperative for thousands of growers in California. Many of the grower members live in my district, and produce the world's best almonds. Blue Diamond is very proud of the fact that the average tenure of its employees is approximately twenty years. This is an outstanding record and demonstrates employee satisfaction with their jobs.

The International Longshoreman and Warehouseman's Union has tried to organize Blue Diamond since the late 1980s. They have had no success. Diamond's employees do not want to be in the union and express high job satisfaction. In 1990, the ILWU held an election at Blue Diamond and lost. As recently as May of 2005, Blue Diamond asked the NLRB to hold an election so that Blue Diamond's employees would have the opportunity to vote on whether or not they wished to be members of the ILWU. The ILWU immediately filed a letter with the NLRB stating that they had no interest in representing Blue Diamond workers. Therefore, the election was cancelled. Blue Diamond is ready and willing to hold an election, supervised by the NLRB, at any time the employees want it.

Since that time, the ILWU has filed numerous complaints with the NLRB. The original complaints have been resolved to the satisfaction of the NLRB. They covered three employee terminations. It is my understanding that the employees were fired for actions endangering their own personal safety or threatening food quality. However, the NLRB found that two of the firings were improper and those employees were re-hired and given all of their back pay and benefits. The NLRB found the third firing to be proper.

In what appears to be an ongoing harassment action against Blue Diamond Growers, the ILWU filed three additional complaints over the firing of employees. The NLRB held all of these firings to be proper, and found in favor of Blue Diamond.

Madam Speaker, it is important to have the record clear on this matter, since Blue Diamond Growers treats its employees fairly in all respects. This is clearly demonstrated by the length of employment of most of the employees. I hope that in the future, Representatives concerned about the rights of workers in our districts would more fully examine the facts before making unfounded claims on the House Floor. Blue Diamond Growers and the thousands of farmers and workers who they represent deserve better from this House.

HONORING ALVIN CREECH

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, tonight, I rise to honor Alvin Creech for his valiant service in the Korean War. On Sunday, I will have the distinct honor of presenting Mr. Creech with his Purple Heart award for his brave and selfless service in the Chosin Reservoir Campaign during the first winter of the Korean War.

This Tuesday will mark the 225th Anniversary of when General George Washington established the Purple Heart. The award is one of the highest honors, as it recognizes those who have given personal sacrifice in the name of our great Nation.

Private Creech is a true American hero who has waited over 56 years to receive this honor. He was only 19 when he joined the U.S. Army, continuing his family's proud history of defending America in her time of need.

For about a year, Private Creech fought in Korea. Mr. Creech served in the Third Infantry, helping to hold the defensive perimeter to help ensure that the Americans could make it to the coast. During his time in the Third Infantry, Mr. Creech spent almost a year living in foxholes and hunkering down under mortar attacks and enemy sweeps. He became a weapons squad leader, leading patrols to the frontline. Despite being wounded in 1951, he served a full tour of duty and returned home to receive a Bronze Star for valor.

Private Creech's service to our community did not end in Korea. He is the proud husband and father of four, and, after working and providing for his family, he retired but then decided to drive a school bus for children.

I am proud that Mr. Creech and his wife Joyce decided to move to Avon Park to enjoy a full retirement. On behalf of Highlands County, I want to express the community's thanks and gratitude to Mr. Creech for his service to our country.

A TRIBUTE TO RUBY DEE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ruby Dee, an American actress, poet, playwright, and civil rights activist. Her career in acting has crossed all major forms of media over a span of eight decades. Ms. Dee has been active in civil rights causes and is a living legend whose grace and life has inspired many.

Born Ruby Ann Wallace on October 27, 1924, in Cleveland, Ohio, she grew up in Harlem, New York. Ms. Dee is a graduate of the famed American Negro Theatre in Harlem where she studied with Sidney Poitier and Harry Belafonte, often working along their side in movies. Her acting career began during a time when Blacks were fighting for civil rights. She earned national acclaim for her performance in the 1950 film, *The Jackie Robinson Story*. Her film credits include *A Raisin In The Sun*, *Roots*, and *Do The Right Thing*.

She was the first African American woman to secure major roles at the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Connecticut, serving as a trailblazer for Blacks in American theater. Ms. Dee and her beloved husband, the late Ossie Davis, were honored in 1995 by President Clinton with the Presidential Medal for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts and in 2004 by the Kennedy Center for their contributions to the performing arts in America. In 2007, their album titled, "With Ossie And Ruby: In This Life Together" won a Grammy Award for Best Spoken Word Album.

In the fight for racial equality, she was a member of several civil rights organizations. She and her husband served as masters of ceremonies for the historic 1963 March on Washington. Along with W.E.B. Du Bois, Paul Robeson, Malcolm X, and other leaders of the civil rights movement, she has been an advocate and activist of equal rights for all Americans.

Ms. Dee is a courageous woman who was far ahead of her time. She and her husband raised three children: Guy Davis, Nora Day and Hasna Muhammad. I'm grateful for her friendship, talent, and commitment to uplift and inspire African American people. Ms. Dee has touched the lives of all Americans, not to mention New Yorkers. The village of Harlem is proud to claim her as its own and America is a better place because of her life and immeasurable contributions.

CONGRATULATING KACIE RADER
ON WINNING SOAP BOX DERBY
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Kacie Rader, a neighbor of mine in Mechanicsville, Maryland, a constituent from the Fifth District, and a World-Champion Soap Box Racer.

This is the second time I have come to the Floor this year to sing Kacie's praises. On the first occasion, I commended her win in the National Championship. And today, I rise to celebrate her win in the National Derby Rally Championships—held in the great State of Indiana on Friday July 27—where she won her world title.

Earning the title "world champion" is no small feat. It takes hard work, determination, intelligence and athletic ability—all of which were on display when Kacie achieved her ultimate goal and became the best in the world at her chosen pursuit.

Madam Speaker, I had the pleasure of meeting Kacie this morning, and I can tell you that she is an incredibly well-rounded young woman from whom we expect even greater things in the future.

Today, I want Kacie and her family to know that her district, State and Nation are proud of her accomplishment and wish her nothing but the best in whatever the future may hold.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JOEL
BLOOM**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Joel Bloom, a beloved community leader, activist and business owner in my district, who passed away recently after a long battle with cancer.

At a memorial service last month held in front of Joel's business, Bloom's General Store in the Arts District, more than 200 admirers, family members and friends gathered to celebrate his remarkable life. It was a happy occasion, just as Joel would have wanted.

On a personal level, I am extremely grateful to Joel for his unwavering advocacy on behalf of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) Edward R. Roybal Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension. Joel knew that the Gold Line light-rail extension linking Union Station to destinations that included the Arts District and East Los Angeles would play a critical role in the economic development of much-neglected communities. At many MTA meetings when the extension was discussed, I could always count on Joel to represent the transportation needs of Arts District residents with passion and zeal. It saddens me that Joel will not be with us to ride the trains when rail service begins in late 2009 that he fervently believed would spur economic development similar to what occurred in his Chicago birthplace.

Madam Speaker, in honor of Joel's life and many accomplishments, I would like to submit for the record his obituary that appeared in the Los Angeles Times on July 14. It captures the many facets of a man who will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

[From the Los Angeles Times, July 14, 2007]

JOEL BLOOM, 59; L.A. ARTS DISTRICT ACTIVIST

(By Valerie J. Nelson)

Joel Bloom, a pioneering community activist who helped shape the downtown Los Angeles arts district and was its unofficial mayor, with his shoebox-sized general store serving as the area's town hall, has died. He was 59.

Bloom, who also was a playwright and actor, died of soft-tissue sarcoma Friday at the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center, said his son, Randy. Bloom had fought cancer since 2000.

"He gave the arts district its personality, and he was unabashed in his great love for it," said Councilwoman Jan Perry, who represents the area sandwiched between Little Tokyo and the banks of the Los Angeles River. "Joel was charismatic and ruled the roost over there for many, many years."

In late June, the city gave him an honor rarely accorded a living Angeleno—a sign was posted at East Third Street and Traction Avenue that declared the area "Joel Bloom Square."

The humble Bloom's General Store, founded in 1994 to give the growing community a place to pick up toothpaste or rent a video, stands nearby.

"There's a spark here—hopefully we can light it," Bloom told The Times in 1994 before opening the store in the industrial corridor.

The downtown arts district began in the late 1970s as a haven for artists who worked in the lofts and often illegally lived in them.

By the time Bloom moved there in 1986, the city had legalized the live-work spaces, and hundreds of artists had flocked to the area then known as the warehouse or lofts district.

"I get a feeling here I haven't gotten anywhere else. It may look desolate, but it's not. There's no place I'd rather be," Bloom said in the 1994 article.

A City Council resolution passed earlier this month recognized Bloom's community activism, which encompassed fighting to bring light-rail projects to downtown neighborhoods, advocating for affordable housing, organizing a well-regarded neighborhood watch program and leading downtown neighborhood councils.

The resolution also saluted him as a lifelong baseball fan and as a member of the Second City improv group "who raised the term 'grumpiness' to an art form."

Offstage, he was seen as equally cantankerous.

"He was a very gruff old man," said Edward Walker, a longtime friend who works at Bloom's store. "He could yell at you one moment, but the next he would be your friend. Still, if you needed something, he would be the first one there."

Bloom reveled in being a character, friends said, and in creating them.

In 1987, Bloom wrote and staged a production in a downtown parking lot that spoofed drive-in movies. Patrons were handed 2-D glasses—the wearer could see out of the left lens but not the right—and watched "Mayhem at the Mayfield Mall," a parody of sci-fi movies.

When the play was restaged in 1998, *The Times* reported, the Drive-In Drama lot on Imperial Street was thought to be the only venue where live theater could be enjoyed from the comfort of an automobile. Audience members honked to signal laughs or boos, and the national media tweaked L.A. for redefining "car culture."

A Bloom musical, "Showdown at Sonoratown: The Lady Who Stole Hollywood," satirized Los Angeles history when the play was performed in 1990 on Hewitt Street at Al's Bar, which turned into Al's National Theater on slow nights.

As an actor, Bloom appeared in plays such as "The Juke Box Never Plays the Songs You Want to Hear," a takeoff on "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in which the audience sat on stage and the action unfolded on the floor of Al's, said TK Nagano, Bloom's bookkeeper and friend.

Away from the stage, Bloom burnished his reputation as "the godfather" of the community of 1,500 by helping to spearhead a campaign that resulted in the city officially designating it in the 1990s as the arts district, Walker said.

Bloom also led the successful fight to keep the Los Angeles Unified School District from building a distribution warehouse in the neighborhood. In 2000, the Southern California Institute of Architecture moved into the area instead.

"Without Joel, we wouldn't have an arts district in its present form," Walker said. "It's kind of a Mayberry filled with bohemian artists. Everyone knows everybody, and everyone knows Joel."

The second of three children, Joel Alan Bloom was born May 30, 1948, in Chicago. His father worked for a paper company.

In 1969, he graduated from Pasadena Playhouse's school of theater arts.

During the Vietnam War, Bloom served in the Air Force, documenting the soldiers' daily life on film and from the air.

After leaving the service in 1974, he earned a degree in psychology from the University of Illinois, then joined Second City as a stage manager in Chicago.

In the late 1970s, he moved to Los Angeles along with Second City comedian George Wendt, with whom he roomed in Chicago.

Bloom bartended at Al's, joined Shakespeare Festival/LA as stage manager and put down roots in what would become the arts district.

"We've always been dismissed as that industrial area east of downtown," Bloom told *The Times* in 1997. "Well, we're more than that. There's a heart here. And a soul."

The corner of Traction Avenue and Hewitt Street came to be known as the heart of the community, the site of a scruffy general store where Bloom was known to greet customers by bellowing, "Whaddaya want?"

Bloom had been divorced since 1977. In addition to his son, Randy, of Azusa, he is survived by a brother, Michael; a sister, Lynn; and two grandchildren.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE SEWELL FAMILY REUNION

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, giving honor and glory to God, who is the guide of my life, I rise today in honor, respect and celebration of family unity as I honor the unbreakable bond of the Sewell family. Natives of my home town of the 13th Congressional District of Michigan in Detroit, they personify what education, hard work, and faith can do.

On August 16–19, 2007 the Sewell family will celebrate years of family closeness at the Annual Sewell Family Reunion in Baltimore, Maryland. As family reunions are an intricate part of our personal histories, as well as our country's, I am proud to recognize and salute the Sewells on this important, joyous occasion.

For many American families, keeping intact can be quite a challenge. This is a particular challenge for African American families, who have to work twice as hard to ensure that families that have just come back together can indeed stay together. Add to this conundrum the fact that efficient technology has made it all too easy for loved ones to live over further distances and drift apart; that is why it is necessary to honor those families who take time to dedicate themselves to preserving family ties, the ties that bind. The Sewells started gathering together in 1980 and decided in 1999 to make their reunions annual. Family reunions have provided a special time to reinforce historic strengths and traditional values as the family renews and highlights dedication to each other.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in extending the best wishes of the entire U.S. Congress to all of the Sewell Family for a successful and heartwarming family reunion. We wish and hope that their event is educational, safe, and filled with love and spirituality. I am certain this year's reunion will be memorable. As Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, and as a Member of Congress, the CBC and Congress hope their dedication, love and commitment to one another will endure for generations to come. God bless.

INTRODUCTION OF "GLOBAL CLIMATE AND OZONE LAYER PROTECTION ACT OF 2007"

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, today, I am proud to introduce the Global Climate and Ozone Layer Protection Act of 2007. This bill represents the first significant strengthening of the domestic laws governing ozone depleting substances since the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. I'm pleased that this major step forward is supported by both industry and the environmental community.

In May, the Oversight Committee held a hearing on the connection between ozone layer depletion and global warming. These issues are linked because chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) are not only ozone depleting chemicals but very potent greenhouse gases, as well. Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are common substitutes for HCFCs, are also strong greenhouse gases.

The May hearing focused on the Montreal Protocol, the global environmental treaty that sets legally binding controls on the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances. The Committee learned that, because of the global warming impact of ozone depleting chemicals like CFCs, the Montreal Protocol has provided substantial benefits in mitigating global warming since it was negotiated in 1987. The witnesses explained that the Montreal Protocol will have reduced the total global warming impact from ozone depleting chemicals by about 50 percent in 2010. This reduction will have the effect of delaying these climate-related impacts by seven to twelve years. In other words, without the Montreal Protocol, the world would be about a decade further along the path to dangerous climate change.

The Parties to the Montreal Protocol will meet in September to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the treaty and to consider several proposals to strengthen it. This meeting provides an important opportunity to better protect the ozone layer and the climate. The provisions of this bill are intended to realize the full potential of this opportunity.

First, the bill includes a sense of Congress provision regarding the upcoming Montreal Protocol negotiations. It states the sense of Congress that the United States should negotiate with the other parties to the Montreal Protocol to maximize the ability of the Protocol to mitigate global warming impacts and to accelerate the phase out of HCFCs in developed and developing countries. Accelerating the phase-out of HCFCs has the potential to produce significant climate benefits at low cost. The phase-out of HCFC-22 and its HFC-23 byproduct alone would have a climate effect equivalent to eliminating nearly one billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions. This figure is equal to roughly half of the total emissions reductions required under the Kyoto Protocol. By fully funding the Montreal Protocol's Multilateral Fund, this accelerated phase-out of HCFCs can be achieved at a small fraction of the cost of achieving equivalent carbon dioxide emissions reductions.

Second, the bill closes a legal loophole by banning the importation of any product containing phased-out HCFCs, beginning January 1, 2010. The importation of bulk HCFCs for use in new products is already banned on that date.

Third, the bill establishes a mechanism for destroying ozone depleting substances such as those that currently exist in refrigerators and air conditioners before they are released into the atmosphere. The legislation takes a bifurcated approach to ensure the destruction of these chemicals. Beginning January 1, 2010, any person seeking to produce or import an amount of a phased-out ozone depleting substance, considered to be a class I substance under the Clean Air Act, must offset this production or importation by destroying or securing the destruction of three times this amount of ozone depleting substances based on an ozone-depletion potential equivalent basis.

The bill takes a more graduated approach with regard to substances deemed to be class II substances under the Clean Air Act, or HCFCs. Beginning January 1, 2012, any person seeking to produce or import an amount of a class II substance must offset this production or importation by destroying or securing the destruction of 1.2 times this amount of ozone depleting substances based on an ozone-depletion potential equivalent basis. The offset ratio for class II substances is increased to a two-to-one ratio in 2015.

Another mechanism for addressing banks of ozone depleting substances is the creation of the Refrigeration Environmental Management Council. This nonprofit organization will have a board of directors composed of industry representatives, government officials, and public citizens. It will collect an assessment of 30 cents per pound on new refrigerants in order to provide a \$1 per pound incentive for destroying, recycling, or reusing existing ozone depleting substances.

Finally, the bill requires the EPA Administrator to promulgate regulations extending existing recycling requirements governing CFCs and HCFCs to substitutes for these chemicals. The effect of this provision will be to require EPA to finalize the June 11, 1998, proposed rule on this subject.

Collectively, these provisions will have a tremendous impact. The bill addresses ozone depleting substances that have yet to be produced as well as existing banks of substances that may yet be emitted into the atmosphere. The bill addresses older CFCs as well as newer HCFCs. And the bill addresses international negotiations as well as domestic initiatives.

According to the Alliance for Responsible Atmospheric Policy, an industry coalition made up of some 50 companies and trade associations, the proposed refrigerant management program is projected to reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by 81 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. It will also annually reduce approximately 6,000 tons of ozone depletion potential. By 2015, it is projected to generate approximately \$1 billion to fund incentives for recovery, reclamation and destruction of refrigerant compounds. In its entirety, the legislation should deliver greenhouse gas emissions reductions greater than the global reductions required by the Kyoto Protocol.

The Alliance for Responsible Atmospheric Policy has been extremely cooperative and

creative in this process, and I am grateful for their support. This industry has been an important player in the global ozone protection effort for more than two decades. The members of the Alliance have played a critical role in making the Montreal Protocol and implementation of Title VI of the Clean Air Act the successes that we are celebrating this year. The Alliance's support for efforts like the Refrigerant Environmental Management Council indicates a willingness to help achieve important environmental goals in economically sensible ways.

I'd also like to commend the Natural Resources Defense Council. As a premier environmental group with expertise in both the Montreal Protocol and climate change issues, their expertise was invaluable in developing this legislative proposal.

The dramatic benefits from this consensus, balanced bill are the result of a process that started with state-of-the-art science and then explored common-sense, cost-effective measures.

There are a few matters that came up during our discussions that are worth noting for the record. First, as is clear under section 601 of the Clean Air Act, the definition of "produce," does not include substances that are entirely consumed in the manufacture of other chemicals. This definition is important in understanding which chemicals will require destruction offsets under Section 5 of the legislation.

Second, the recycling requirements under Section 6 are not intended to apply to foam, which is evident from the plain language of the legislation.

Finally, the fire suppression provision in Section 4 is intended to address a specific problem that applies to one chemical that is used for fire suppression. It is the stakeholders' understanding that a fire suppression chemical which is currently used in aviation applications is scheduled to be phased out in 2015. Unfortunately, the alternatives to this chemical are currently much worse from a climate change perspective. Since this application represents only 22 ozone depletion potential tons from 2015 to 2030, the legislation would grant the Administrator the authority to permit its continued use as long as no better alternatives are available.

Global warming is an enormous challenge. To fight global warming, we will need to examine every sector of our society. We'll need to increase energy efficiency. We'll have to reduce emissions from transportation and electricity generation. We'll need to move away from the dirty technologies of the past and embrace new, clean technologies.

I hope my colleagues will support the Global Climate and Ozone Layer Protection Act of 2007 so that we can begin to take those steps.

LEGISLATION ENCOURAGING TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation encouraging teacher development in the schools the most in need of quality instruction.

Five years ago, we passed the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) with the goals of closing the achievement gap and improving academic performance overall. Schools have found some success during those five years, but I believe we need to make a number of changes to NCLB to make it more supportive for educators. We need to invest in our teachers.

Madam Speaker, our teachers are the most important element in our educational system. It is our teachers who connect with our children and inspire them to achieve.

I am introducing the Support Our Schools With Quality Teaching Act of 2007 to provide professional development opportunities for our teachers in struggling or at-risk schools.

Specifically, this legislation authorizes federal grant funding for schools to invite the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) to implement its Targeted High Need Initiative (THNI) in schools in need. The NBPTS trains teachers to become professionally certified.

Under the THNI program, teachers at struggling schools undergo a portion of the rigorous curriculum to become a professionally certified teacher. The training comes from certified teachers who provide mentoring and training.

Once the program is over, teachers at the school site have the option of going on to complete professional certification without cost to them when they agree to remain at the high-need school.

The Support Our Schools With Quality Teaching Act targets funding to the schools the most in need of quality teaching, such as those falling into Program Improvement under No Child Left Behind or those with high student populations from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support professional teacher development in the schools that could benefit from the best possible instruction.

HELSINKI HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, today marks the 32nd anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, which ushered in civil and political liberties for millions of oppressed Europeans. Most importantly, the Helsinki Final Act created a strong international framework that continues to promote liberty and peace in a region that extends beyond the traditional boundaries of Europe. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the U.S. Helsinki Commission, which I am privileged to chair, serve as invaluable institutions which ensure that countries honor their Helsinki Final Act commitments. The U.S. Helsinki Commission is proud of our role as the conduit between both Houses of the U.S. Congress, the Executive Branch, foreign governments and civil society.

As President Gerald Ford said during the Helsinki Accords, "History will judge this conference not by what we say here today, but by what we do tomorrow, not by the promises we make, but by the promises we keep." We continue to respect this profound statement and

we anticipate the spirit of President Ford's sentiments will continue to endure long after the death of the late former President.

Fortunately, the spirit of the Helsinki Final Act remains strong. Overarching concerns for European security and liberty during the Cold War have evolved into regional energy security dilemmas, kleptocracy, and continued human rights violations. Moreover, Europe once again faces serious security concerns as Russia has suspended its obligations under the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty.

Madam Speaker, we must never forget how valuable the process of engagement has served the interests of Europe and the United States in the past. Working together in an integrated framework of cooperation and security is our best hope for peace and justice. While the world has been changing at an ever increasing pace since 1975, our ideals and values remain entrenched in the commitments made under the Helsinki Final Act.

Today we recognize the significant impact the Helsinki Final Act made in fostering a world with increased peace and justice. Today, Helsinki Human Rights Day, we honor our commitments and pledge vigilance in the quest for human rights, governmental accountability and cooperation for security throughout Europe, North America, Central Asia, and elsewhere in the world.

REGARDING H.R. 3327

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I have co-sponsored H.R. 3327 to amend the Animal Welfare Act to prohibit dog fighting ventures because of the terrible problem of dog fighting. The author of the bill has assured me that in the committee process the penalties imposed on spectators will be modified.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2272, AMERICA COMPETES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2272, the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education and Science (COMPETES) Act. We have recently learned that in the coming years, children in India and China may be better prepared for the jobs of the future than our own children here in the United States: Further, the 2005 National Academies report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm", emphasized the United States could lose its competitive edge without immediate action being taken. In response to these alarming reports, Congress has shifted focus to strengthening our science technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

Today, H.R. 2272, legislation to ensure that the students, teachers, and workers will not be left behind as the world moves forward in new

technology development and innovation, is being considered. The bill authorizes funding for programs to create more qualified teachers in science and math fields and to support scientific research and innovation through the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

I believe our teachers are the cornerstone to leading future generations in STEM fields and I believe we must give them the proper resources to meet this goal. This legislation stands to create and equip thousands of new teachers and give current teachers the content and instructional skills they need in order to teach science and mathematics.

The legislation authorizes a total of \$22 billion over fiscal years 2008–2010 for research, education, and other programs at the National Science Foundation; \$2.65 billion for the research labs, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and other activities at the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST); and \$17 billion for programs at the Department of Energy.

Mr. Speaker, we must set policies that ensure the United States will remain competitive in the future. I support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

THANKS TO MINNESOTA'S MILITARY HEROES

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, the Minnesota Army and Air National Guard have welcomed home nearly 2,600 citizen soldiers who were called to active duty for the war in Iraq. Most of those Minnesotans, who are returning from Iraq, were deployed for 22 months and many spent 16 months in combat. The brave men and women of the Minnesota National Guard deserve our respect and our gratitude. The members of the Minnesota National Guard, their families, friends and employers have all endured a hardship during the past 22 months. The sacrifices they made, and the quiet dignity they displayed during that time, are not surprising to those who have had the honor of meeting them.

The State of Minnesota is very proud of the active duty, reserve and National Guard who enlisted from our State. The Minnesota State seal depicts an individual working hard on farmland. The seal is a perfect symbol of the strong work ethic displayed by the brave men and women from our State who serve in the military. Our State seal also includes the words "L'etoile du Nord" which translated from French means "Star of the North." The men and women from Minnesota served under various group names, such as Soldier, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, Red Bulls, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, Active Duty, Reservist, and many more. Regardless of their military affiliation, those who served have shown the world that Minnesotans are prepared for any challenge and able to perform any task and that they are truly bright stars of the north.

The Minnesota National Guard served the longest continuous deployment of any United States military unit during Operation Iraqi

Freedom. Members of the Minnesota National Guard completed 5,200 combat logistics patrols, secured 2.4 million convoy miles, discovered 462 improvised explosive devices prior to detonation, processed over 1.5 million vehicles and 400,000 Iraqis into entry control points without an insurgent penetration. The men and women of the Minnesota National Guard also completed 137 reconstruction projects in Iraq.

Veterans who fought in wars and were discharged many years ago have told me that they appreciate it when people thank them for their service. I do not want the men and women who return from Iraq, Afghanistan or other locations to wait years before hearing me thank them for their service. I offer a heartfelt, sincere thank you to all Minnesotans who served and are currently serving in the United States military. I welcome home all the brave individuals who have devoted their time and talents to defend our Nation and provide security in the world. Some Minnesotans deployed to combat areas and lost their lives. I hope all Americans remember these brave men and women and continue to support the families they left behind. I encourage all Americans to thank a veteran or member of our military for their service. I also encourage this Congress and all citizens to offer any assistance to our Nation's military personnel and their families as they transition back to the lives they led prior to their deployments.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CALLING CARD CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues' strong support of a bill that I am introducing, which would protect calling card consumers from being scammed and stop prepaid calling card deception. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my friend and colleague on the Energy and Commerce Committee, Congressman MIKE FERGUSON, who joins me as an original cosponsor of this bill.

As you may already be aware, calling cards allow one to purchase telephone talk time in advance and since the financial transaction occurs before card use, many companies have successfully hidden additional fees and terms that are then hard to appeal. Some consumers find that the calling card rates are higher than advertised or that they must pay surcharges or extra undisclosed taxes. In other cases, the calling card company automatically deducts minutes even if the consumer is unable to connect with the party they attempted to call. Even worse, many consumers find they are being scammed out of minutes and are being cut off in the middle of phone conversations.

To help combat some of the aforementioned issues that plague our constituents, Congressman FERGUSON and I will be introducing the "Calling Card Consumer Protection Act" which requires disclosures related to terms and conditions on all advertising, cards or packaging. It would also require that the calling card service providers disclose a detailed description of any additional fees and the company's name

and contact information for consumers should a problem arise. Again, I urge my colleagues support and cosponsorship of this important consumer protection bill.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in strong support of the "Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007" (CHAMP or H.R. 3162) and would like to take this opportunity to thank the distinguished chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. JOHN DINGELL for the inclusion of my State Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) small employer buy-in proposal. He is a good friend and an invaluable leader in providing adequate health insurance to all of America's children.

Today, it is estimated that of the 9.4 million uninsured children, 7 million of them are eligible for SCHIP, but are not enrolled. Furthermore, approximately 37 percent of the 6.6 million children currently enrolled in SCHIP have parents who work in businesses with fewer than 100 employees. Due to the high cost of health insurance in the private small group and individual market, many of these parents do not have access to affordable health insurance for themselves. To help cover these parents and enroll the 7 million uninsured children eligible for SCHIP, I believe that one viable solution is for Congress to provide small employers access to buy into a public health care program, such as the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

With the support of Chairman DINGELL, the CHAMP Act does just that—it establishes a demonstration program for up to 10 States to offer employers and their employees the option to buy into a State's children's health insurance program.

In order for a State to participate in the demonstration program it may not impose a waiting list, enrollment cap, or any other enrollment limitation on low-income children at or below 200 percent of the Federal poverty level (FPL). As for the employer qualifications, 50 percent of his or her workforce must comprise of full-time employees with family incomes at or below 200 percent of the poverty line. Furthermore, eligible employees must have at least one eligible SCHIP child in their family.

If an employer agrees to participate, the program requires the employer to make a contribution no less than 50 percent of the premium toward the family coverage. The employee is required to make a contribution no greater than 5 percent of their entire income of the premium toward family coverage. The SCHIP funds used to cover the eligible children are the only allowable SCHIP funds that may be applied toward the family coverage. At the State's discretion, any remaining cost of the family coverage may be covered by the employer or the State. Specifically, the State may use its own funds or apply an access fee to the employer for utilizing the purchasing pooling power of their children's health care program.

As the CHAMP Act moves to conference, I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will view this demonstration as one viable solution to addressing the health care crisis. Again, I thank Chairman DINGELL for his outstanding leadership and support. At the end of the day, I am confident we will accomplish our goal of insuring as many children as possible.

REDUCING BARRIERS TO EDUCATION ACT OF 2007

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Reducing Barriers to Learning Act of 2007. Students come to school with diverse academic and non-academic needs. A student may have trouble reading, or have a chronic health condition or a disability. Students may have hearing problems or problems with their eyesight. They may have behavior problems. Some children may have experienced a tragedy or have family problems. They may live in poor conditions or be subject to violence in their homes or communities.

It's abundantly clear that many students face severe barriers to learning. In order to reduce these barriers and help our children succeed in the classroom and in the community we must find a way to positively affect their social and emotional well being. A child is only prepared to learn when he or she is healthy and strong, both mentally and physically.

Unfortunately, 20 percent of the 53 million children in school will, at some point, meet the criteria for a diagnosable mental illness at a level of impairment that requires some type of intervention. Thus, there is the potential that over 10 million children will need some type of help to meet the goals relating to emotional well-being in the No Child Left Behind legislation.

The school can be an important site where the health and education risks of students may be identified. Early identification and intervention addressing a student's social and emotional health is essential. Many important services are provided by school counselors, nurses, psychologists, social workers, therapists, and many others. These individuals, commonly referred to as pupil services personnel, are lifelines to our children.

Unfortunately, very little attention is paid to these personnel and the services they provide for struggling students. In fact, there is a shortage of school mental health positions. Current recommended ratios are 250 students per counselor; 400 students per social worker; and 1,000 students per psychologist. Unfortunately, reality does not match recommendations. Current national averages are 488 students per counselor and over 1,600 students per school social worker and psychologist.

In Iowa, during the prior school year, 40 districts out of 365 did not have a school counselor. The State legislature recently reconstituted the mandate that every district have "a" counselor and included goal language that staffing levels work toward no more than 1 counselor for every 350 students. The ratio of students per school social worker is 2000 to 1.

These shortages jeopardize a schools ability to provide broad-based mental health services

to students. Unfortunately, very little attention is paid to these personnel and the services they provide for struggling students. This appears to be largely a reflection of a lack of leadership at the national, state, and local level.

The Reducing Barriers to Learning Act of 2007 takes necessary steps toward increasing student access to critical services so that we can better address the nonacademic needs of students and reduce barriers to learning.

The bill creates a grant program for State Education Agencies to build the capacity of Local Education Agencies to develop programs and personnel dedicated to removing barriers to learning. These grants will help recruit and retain coordinators at the local level; establish and expand instructional support services programs; and provide technical assistance regarding the effective implementation of instructional support services programs.

The bill also establishes an Office of Specialized Instructional Support within the U.S. Department of Education. This office will administer, coordinate, and carry out programs and activities concerned with providing specialized instructional support services in schools. The office will provide technical assistance to State education agencies and State specialized instructional support coordinators, if any. It will also improve cross-agency coordination of services and programs supporting students who face barriers to learning.

Finally, the bill simply clarifies conflicting terminology, definitions, and roles of specialized instructional support personnel. The personnel are known as "pupil services personnel" in the ESEA and as "related services personnel" in the IDEA, despite the fact that they are exactly the same professionals. This difference in terminology continues to cause confusion for school districts. Establishing one common statutory term would ease this confusion and would more accurately reflect the nature and purpose of the services that these professionals provide to students in schools.

Knowing who is available to support struggling students in schools is essential. Connecting students in need with a professional who can assist them and be accountable to them is the only way to know that we will leave no child behind. The Reducing Barriers to Education Act of 2007 will take necessary steps toward increasing student access to critical support services and I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this important legislation.

HONORING THE CAREER OF JACK EDISON OF PLYMOUTH, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the career of Plymouth High School boys' basketball coach, Jack Edison. After 34 years, 545 wins, 18 sectional titles, 9 regional crowns, 4 Final 4 appearances, 3 state finals, and 2 state titles as head coach of the Plymouth Pilgrims, Coach Edison has retired.

This beloved coach finished his final season with a second state title, making him the ninth winningest coach in Indiana's legendary high

school basketball history. His impressive career also includes his 2005 induction into Indiana's Basketball Hall of Fame. Those who know him personally describe him as having a strong passion to teach, both in the classroom and on the court. The key to his successful coaching career was leading the team with both class and dignity while thoroughly preparing for every opponent, regardless of their record. This style set an example that has followed many of his players and helped them build strong futures. When asked what he will miss the most, it was no surprise that Coach Edison answered, "I will miss the players, the bonding, the camaraderie, and the challenge of preparing for the battle coming up." Though he will no longer sit courtside for the basketball games, Coach Edison plans to continue teaching social studies and physical education at Plymouth High School.

So, today, on behalf of the citizens of Indiana's Second District, I thank Jack Edison for his years of unselfish dedication. As he retires from 34 years as beloved head coach of Plymouth High School's boys' basketball team, I pay special tribute to a man who has served as a role model for countless young men and whose positive influence will continue to be seen for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MENOMINEE HIGH
SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay homage to a legendary team that made my hometown of Menominee, Michigan, proud. Forty years ago, an exceptional Menominee High School basketball team made history, under the coaching leadership of Bob Krysiak.

The 1967 Menominee High School basketball team won the Michigan Class B State Basketball Championship in March of 1967. Coach Krysiak's team faced a great deal of adversity during the season, which made winning the State championship seem like an impossible dream. The team was young, with a junior and two sophomores in the starting lineup.

Moreover, the team's season was plagued with personnel difficulties and other challenges. Early in the season, Coach Krysiak was forced to remove one player from the team for disciplinary reasons. At mid-season, one of the starters was declared ineligible and all games played in the first half of the season had to be forfeited.

Menominee lost the second to the last game of the season to Peshtigo High School, a team that was not, at that time, regarded as a basketball powerhouse. Faced with these daunting circumstances, the Menominee basketball team had little hope of winning even one postseason playoff game.

Despite these difficulties, Menominee would persevere and prevail. Under Bob Krysiak's leadership, Menominee won the district championship in Iron Mountain, Michigan. Shortly thereafter, the team won the regional championship in Marquette, Michigan, earning a trip down State.

After dominating a team from Standish-Sterling, Menominee faced the number one ranked

team in the State, Lansing O'Rafferty. The game was played on Lansing O'Rafferty's home court on St. Patrick's Day in the State semi-finals.

By clinching a hard fought victory from O'Rafferty, Menominee earned the right to face Ypsilanti Willow Run, which was widely regarded as a team superior in strength and skills to Menominee.

Madam Speaker, according to those who were there, Coach Krysiak spent much of the 12 hours between games talking to other coaches, to gather scouting information on Willow Run. Willow Run was a bigger, stronger, faster team than Menominee, but Coach Krysiak prevailed in the finals by outsmarting his opponents. He coached his team to lure Willow Run's top player into foul trouble, which proved to be the deciding factor. The game remained in flux and undecided until the final seconds and a thrilling finish.

Menominee was not favored to win the district tournament, the regional tournament, or any of the final three games down State. Menominee is the only team to win a State championship after having entered the State tournament with a losing record. In all regards, Menominee was truly the quintessential "underdog."

Despite Menominee's underdog status, the community of Menominee rallied behind the basketball team.

Twenty bus loads of students, teachers, and fans rode yellow schoolbuses nearly 500 miles from Menominee to East Lansing to watch Menominee play the final two games. They were there in the final moments when Menominee clinched the championship and made this small town in Michigan's Upper Peninsula proud.

Madam Speaker, in all of America, high school athletics are important to a community's identity. However, in small towns and rural communities, high school athletics become all the more important. This weekend, my hometown, the small town of Menominee, Michigan, will celebrate the 40th anniversary of Menominee High School's unexpected Class B High School basketball championship.

As the Menominee community comes together to honor the 1967 Menominee Maroons, I would ask that the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting the 1967 Menominee basketball team of Pat Miller, Fred Matz, Dewey Bellisle, Dale Englund, Joe Gypp, Dave Haglund, Skip Heckel, Bob "Cubby" Johnson, Bill Jones, Joe Kaufman, Bill Kelley, Jay Nelson, Merle Russell and Rick Stultz, as well as Coach Krysiak. The people of Menominee, Michigan remain grateful to the team and the coach for their inspired and improbable championship, 40 years ago. Today, I am proud to enter their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

H. RES. 482

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H. Res. 482. This resolution expresses the House of Representatives support for the power-sharing government in Northern Ireland,

all leaders and parties involved in making this agreement a reality, and the elections that were held on May 8, 2007.

As an American with Irish ancestry, I had the honor to travel to Northern Ireland to meet with women, both Catholic and Protestant, who continue to work tirelessly to move peace forward. It has also been my great pleasure to host and mentor women from Northern Ireland in my congressional office, as they take part in parliamentary workshops through the International Women's Democracy Center.

The negotiations, subsequent efforts and implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, also known as the Belfast Agreement, demonstrate the ability of people to come together and achieve partnership out of conflict. Moving peace forward in Northern Ireland, as well as in other areas of the world, requires confidence in the judicial system to ensure justice and fairness for all citizens and confidence in the ability to enforce the laws that are passed.

History has proven that in order to achieve an accomplishment as monumental as this the willingness to compromise by parties involved is key to attaining a positive result. With Parliamentary elections held recently the government of Northern Ireland has begun to see the fruits of its labor. So many others like former Senator George Mitchell and Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair should be incredibly proud of the hard work to bring peace and end the conflict.

The United States stands with the people of Northern Ireland in their search for democracy, justice, and peace. My hopes and prayers are with the people of Northern Ireland as they continue on this journey. I am proud to stand in support of this resolution, and in support of efforts to strengthen democracy and rule of law in Northern Ireland. I urge my colleagues to join me.

HONORING NEVADA'S FINEST

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HELLER of Nevada. Madam Speaker, the State of Nevada that I represent is home to 6 of the finest soldiers that I have ever met. On my recent trip to Iraq, the last week of July 2007, I had the honor to meet and talk with SGT Anthony Monger, SPC Richard Cook, PFC Joshua Campbell, SSG John Tripp, SPC Lacy Montgomery, and PFC Cory Ward.

As we all know, war is never easy and the people who make the greatest sacrifices during these difficult times are the brave men and women of our Armed Services. Very often this means service members are deployed for extended periods of time away from their friends, family, and children. America must remain committed to our soldiers, and I pray for the safe return of every Nevadan and soldier of the United States.

Generations of Nevadans will enjoy greater peace and security because of the tireless sacrifices of soldiers like Anthony, Richard, Joshua, John, Lacy, and Cory. I am honored to have met these soldiers and commend their service and bravery.

H.R. 2929

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2929 which bans the construction and use of permanent bases in Iraq. This legislation sends an important message to the people of Iraq and the rest of the world that the United States does not intend to remain in Iraq permanently and does not intend to control Iraqi oil resources.

Based on current negative views of so many across the globe, it would be extremely dangerous for the United States, its citizens and our armed forces to remain in Iraq indefinitely. Previous provisions like the one before us today have been in legislation that bans our military forces from remaining in Iraq permanently; however, these provisions will expire on September 30, 2007. With recent statements made by the Bush Administration suggesting a long-term presence of our troops in Iraq, the time is now for Congress to speak out and reflect the views of the American people.

H.R. 2929 sends a clear message to Americans and the rest of the world that the Iraqi government and the many cultural and ethnic groups that live there that they need to work together to achieve national sovereignty and peace. Relying on the United States is the wrong position for Iraqis as it will not develop their national identity and strength.

The bipartisan Iraq Study Group made it very clear that the United States must not remain in Iraq permanently. H.R. 2929 accomplishes this task and I commend the gentlewoman from California, Ms. LEE, for bringing this bill to the Floor today. I urge all my colleagues to support it.

TRIBUTE TO THE CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF MARQUETTE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Catholic Diocese of Marquette, which celebrates its sesquicentennial this weekend. The Diocese of Marquette enjoys a rich and storied history that stretches back into the earliest days of the U.P.'s settlement. In many ways, the story of Michigan's Upper Peninsula is deeply intertwined with the history of the Diocese of Marquette.

Even before the Catholic Diocese and before the United States was a nation, Catholicism played an integral role in the settlement of the U.P. As early as the 1600s, Jesuit missionaries from France began spreading the Gospel to natives of the Upper Peninsula. In 1641, Saint Isaac Jogues was the first to offer Mass in America's third oldest city, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

In 1668 missionary Jacques Marquette, for whom the Upper Peninsula's largest city is named, became the first resident pastor to the Chippewa and Sault Indian tribes. For nearly 350 years, the Jesuits remained a constant presence in the region.

Father Frederic Baraga settled in L'Anse in 1843 and devoted the rest of his life to spreading the Word. The present-day Diocese of Marquette, encompassing all of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, was declared a Vicariate Apostolic within the ecclesiastic Province of Cincinnati in 1853. In 1857 it was established by Pope Pius IX as the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie, and the saintly Father Baraga was named its first bishop.

Bishop Baraga moved from his missionary efforts at L'Anse to Sault Ste. Marie to carry out his new mission. Unfortunately, Sault Ste. Marie was located 230 miles from L'Anse and Father Baraga found the location too remote of a location to effectively reach the residents of the U.P. In 1865, the seat of the diocese was moved to Marquette, Michigan. At that time, the name was changed to the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie and Marquette. In 1937, the Diocese assumed its current title, the Diocese of Marquette.

Throughout the 20th century Bishop Baraga's successors strived to continue building the church as they increased the number of parishes, missions and Catholic schools throughout the diocese, and encouraged involvement from the laity.

By 1953 when the Diocese celebrated its 100th anniversary of being named a vicariate apostolic, the Diocese had grown significantly. At that time the U.P. Diocesan clergy numbered 143. The Diocese encompassed 96 parishes, 42 chapels and 38 missions. The Diocese had six high schools and 28 grade schools. A Centennial Mass was held August 30 at Memorial Field in Marquette and seven additional observances were held in various regions of the U.P. in September and October 1953.

Madam Speaker, the Diocese of Marquette remains today a church that is intrinsically linked to the spirit of the Upper Peninsula. It remains a church that actively evangelizes and spreads the Word of the Lord. The Diocese continues to minister to the poor and care for the weak and infirm. My hometown church, the Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Menominee, Michigan resides in the Diocese of Marquette. A prayer we say there reflects well the history, spirit and sentiment of the Diocese of Marquette. It reads:

May the power and love of Jesus transform our families

Our neighborhoods, our society and all nations

By becoming a welcoming, forgiving people.

May we let our faith shine on the world around us,

Radiating the love of Jesus

By the everyday way we speak, think and act.

This we ask in Jesus Name. Amen

Madam Speaker, 150 years since its founding by Bishop Frederic Baraga, the Diocese of Marquette remains a steady bastion of Catholic faith in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Just as the Diocese guided the U.P.'s settlement, it continues to today to serve the residents of the Upper Peninsula.

Madam Speaker, this Sunday the Diocese of Marquette celebrates 150 years of service to the people of the Upper Peninsula and 150 years of worship. 2,000 Catholics from throughout the U.P. and 10 Catholic bishops from across the Midwest are expected to attend. Residents of the U.P., of all faiths will come together—to celebrate this historic mile-

stone—and to honor Catholicism in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. I would ask, Madam Speaker, that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in paying homage to the Catholic Diocese of Marquette, the clergy who have served there and the many parishioners—past and present—who make up this Diocese, rich in history, rich in faith and rich in the Lord's spirit.

CONGRATULATING MS. GAIL P.
HARDY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Gail P. Hardy, who became the first African American in Connecticut's history to be appointed to the position of State's Attorney. Ms. Hardy, an 11-year veteran of the Division of Criminal Justice in Connecticut, was appointed to serve as State's Attorney for the Judicial District of Hartford. The appointment was by a unanimous vote of Connecticut's Criminal Justice Commission. As State's Attorney, Ms. Hardy will be the chief law enforcement officer in the Judicial District of Hartford, where she will oversee prosecutions and more than 70 employees in the Hartford district. The district includes Hartford and 18 surrounding communities, along with Superior Courts in Hartford, Enfield and Manchester, Hartford Juvenile Court, and Hartford Community Court.

Gail Hardy has an excellent and diverse record both in and outside of the courts. In addition to her impressive work as a prosecutor, Ms. Hardy also served as a probation officer, a public defender, a state child support investigator, an adjunct college professor, and as a counselor in a halfway house. Her past and current colleagues have offered no less than the highest regards to her experience and quality of her work and service. From the courtroom to the community, Ms. Hardy has a record that illuminates her competence and fairness that will serve her well as State's Attorney. The citizens in Hartford's judicial district can have confidence in a criminal justice system that is both efficient and unbiased under Ms. Hardy's leadership.

And so today, I rise to congratulate and honor Gail P. Hardy for her outstanding achievements. Ms. Hardy, through years of dedication and service to her community comes to the position of State's Attorney with great experience and knowledge that she will use to continue to succeed in this next chapter in her career. Ms. Hardy also brings to this position a broad perspective that will serve Connecticut's citizens well.

LIBERIA DESIGNATION EXTENSION

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3123. This legislation extends the opportunity to

3,600 Liberians currently residing in the United States to be able to remain here under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

President Johnson Sirleaf has made it very clear that Liberia continues to need our support. As Liberia rebuilds after its civil war and re-establishes its civil society and government, we must continue to work with the Liberian people. Liberians that continue to reside in the United States, including the city of St. Paul, need our assistance as well. After the civil war Liberians were given the opportunity to register for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) in this country. Today, the opportunity to continue to receive this status is in jeopardy. However, this legislation will protect those that need our help.

On October 1, 2007 the Temporary Protected Status (TSP) of all Liberians residing in the United States is set to expire. This will create a devastating effect on the opportunity for prosperity and hope of Liberian citizens. H.R. 3123 will alleviate this burden Liberians face by extending the designation of TPS.

Not only has United States provided assistance to the people of Liberia and its government, but the Liberians who currently reside in this country provide aid to the growing economy and families who remain in Liberia. The Liberians in the U.S. provide monetary support to families in Liberia but equally important is the ability to provide their skills, talent and education they have gained living in the U.S. to their countrymen that need help.

During her address to Congress in 2006 President Johnson Sirleaf expressed that Liberia needs to continue to receive these remittances and aid to help keep their economy stable. If the Liberian community in the United States is not granted TPS again and all are required to return to Liberia in a short period of time the economy and infrastructure of Liberia will not be able to sustain the influx.

Liberia and its people need our friendship and support and I applaud the gentleman from Rhode Island, Mr. Kennedy, for bringing this important bill to the Floor. I urge all my colleagues to support this bill.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2272, AMERICA COMPETES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. Speaker, there is much to be excited about in H.R. 2272, the America COMPETES Act, a bill that endeavors to maintain America's preeminence in math and science. It doubles funding for the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy's Office of Science, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership. It establishes a number of initiatives to encourage diversity in energy choices and participation. It also establishes a new Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy, ARPA-E, to overcome the long-term and high-risk technological barriers in the development of energy technologies.

However, the directive of ARPA-E explicitly includes provisions for the advancement of nuclear energy. The perils of nuclear energy are numerous. Indeed, in March 2002, workers at

the Davis Besse nuclear power plant discovered a deep cavity in the head of the nuclear reactor, leaving only a thin stainless steel lining. Experts have concluded that if the hole were not discovered, the reactor could have ruptured within the next year of operation. Furthermore, the lack of a long-term solution to dispose of nuclear waste necessitates that we dump tons of highly toxic waste on several generations to come. Finally, the economics of nuclear power requires billions of dollars in Federal subsidies, which would be far better spent on development of truly renewable energy technologies.

For these reasons, I voted against H.R. 2272, the America COMPETES Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF OUR PURPLE HEART VETERANS

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 49, recognizing the 75th anniversary of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and commending recipients of the Purple Heart for their courageous demonstrations of gallantry and heroism on behalf of the United States and in support of S. 27, supporting the goals and ideals of "National Purple Heart Recognition Day."

The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in current use. It is awarded to members of the Armed Forces who are killed or wounded during conflict with an enemy force or while held as prisoners of war.

The Purple Heart was originally awarded during the Revolutionary War by the order of then-General George Washington. In 1932 the practice of awarding this prestigious medal was reinstated to honor the 200th birthday of George Washington.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart is the only veteran's organization comprised strictly of combat veterans. It was created for the protection and mutual interest of those who have received the Purple Heart. Since the reintroduction of this high honor, over 1.5 million soldiers have been awarded the Purple Heart; 550,000 of these brave individuals are living today.

Madam Speaker, the recipients of the Purple Heart have made an invaluable contribution to our country that will not be forgotten. They put their lives on the line and made great sacrifices while in service to our country and deserve our deepest respect. I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 49 and S. 27, and I thank all of our Nation's veterans for their service to our country.

GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN SHOULD APOLOGIZE

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor I rise in strong support of

H. Res. 121. This resolution expresses the sense of Congress that the Government of Japan should formally apologize for and acknowledge the role that some in the Japanese Government played in forcing women into sexual slavery during World War II.

To date, the Government of Japan has failed to do this. This is a human rights issue that the gentleman from California, Mr. HONDA, has championed for years. Along with other Members of this body I am truly proud to stand with him today in support of this resolution.

Throughout the world's history, including World War II, cultures and societies have abused women, raped and enslaved them, and subjected them to forced sexual acts. The United States is not without its past atrocities and abuses, including the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. However, if we recognize and acknowledge our mistakes as human beings we can learn from the past and reduce the occurrence of horrible acts. H. Res. 121 looks to provide recognition of past human rights abuses against the "comfort women" so Japan can move forward knowing it will never commit these acts again.

MR. TOMMY MAKEM

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to observe the passing of a friend and a man for whom I held a tremendous amount of respect, Tommy Makem.

Tommy was an internationally celebrated folk musician, actor, artist, poet, songwriter, and storyteller from Ireland who took pride in sharing the Irish culture with those around the globe. He immigrated to the United States in 1955 seeking work as an actor and settled in Dover, New Hampshire. After a brief period as an actor, Tommy Makem went on to join a band of Irish decent, The Clancy Brothers, where he rose to international fame.

Tommy broke out on his own following his time with The Clancy Brothers and educated generations on the history, traditions, and customs of Ireland through his music, art, and poetry. He wrote hundreds of songs including, "Four Green Fields," "Gentle Annie," and "The Rambles of Spring," which have been played in Carnegie Hall, Madison Square Garden, Royal Albert Hall and across the United States, Canada, and Australia.

Tommy Makem's illustrious career has awarded him an honorary doctorate from the University of New Hampshire, gold and platinum albums, and a host of other awards such as the Gold Medal of the Eire Society in Boston, the Genesis Award from Stonehill College in Massachusetts, an Emmy nomination for a New Hampshire public television series, as well as the first Lifetime Achievement Award in the Irish Voice/Aer Lingus Community Awards and a listing as one of the top 100 Irish Americans in the Irish American Magazine five years in a row. The World Folk Music Association awarded him its Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999.

His enduring memory and music will live on, as will the power and energy of his unyielding spirit. He remains a true inspiration to me and million of others around the world.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES EDWARD
UHLES

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Charles Edward Uhles, a strong community leader from Antlers, Oklahoma. He passed away unexpectedly on June 2, 2007, at the age of 65. Charles was the kind of man that everyone was happy to meet, and he will be missed by all who knew him.

Charles' commitment to leadership began at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Oklahoma, where he studied pharmacy and was a charter member of Kappa Psi, the pharmacy fraternity. After his graduation, Charles continued this pattern of community service in Antlers, Oklahoma, where he held posts ranging from mayor of Antlers to Cubmaster. He held leadership positions in organizations including the Jaycees, the Lions Club, the Masonic Lodge and the Boy Scouts. Charles' desire to work for the good of his community also led him to be involved in business organizations, serving as president of the Antlers Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Board of the Little Dixie Community Action Agency and president of the Deer Capital Tourism Association. The pharmacy that Charles and his wife Jeanette owned for 35 years was selected as the Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year 2006 and the Oklahoma Main Street Business of the Year 2007. In addition, Charles contributed to his community as a member of the First Methodist Church of Antlers.

I stand today to honor the life of Charles Edward Uhles, an outstanding community member with a distinguished record of service. Charles was a good man that I am proud to have known, and his dedication to service inspired those who knew him to follow his lead by reaching out and helping their communities in their own special way.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1,
IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE 9/11 COMMISSION
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Conference Report on H.R. 1, which implements the findings of the Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, also called the 9/11 Commission Recommendations. Passage of this legislation keeps another promise made by the new Democratic Majority and makes clear that the safety and security of our families, our communities and our country is a top priority.

This Conference Report makes critical investments necessary to improve our homeland security. The timing is critical—a recent National Intelligence Estimate stated that al-Qaeda's network has been able to restore their capability to launch another attack on our

country. H.R. 1 will both better protect Americans from terrorism, and improve our ability to combat dangerous threats abroad. It implements the 9/11 Commission recommendations and is supported by the 9/11 families, as well as a vast majority of Americans.

H.R. 1 takes action on issues ignored by previous Congresses. It requires 100 percent scanning of containers bound for the United States and 100 percent screening of cargo on passenger aircraft. Recognizing that not all travel is aviation, the bill also authorizes \$4 billion for security grant programs to improve the safety of mass transit, buses, and freight and passenger rail.

Passage of this legislation will also finally ensure that our firefighters and police officers can communicate with one another in an emergency. H.R. 1 provides the resources necessary to ensure this communication by establishing a communications interoperability grant program. It also includes strengthens state and local intelligence fusion centers—which have been established to make sure state and local responders are receiving security-relevant information from Federal agencies.

Recognizing the importance of prevention, this conference report also includes strong provisions to reduce the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, strengthens efforts to prevent terrorists from traveling, and strengthens security measures for the Visa Waiver program. It also includes efforts to improve the reputation of the United States abroad and to reduce the appeal of extremism. This legislation promotes opportunities for educational exchange, invests in diplomacy and promotes long-term strategies to improve democracy and human rights around the world. Restoring America's reputation as a leader and a positive partner in the international community is the most effective tool we have to prevent further terrorist attacks.

This bill makes our Nation safer. I urge my colleagues to support it, and the President to sign it.

RECOGNIZING AMY MUMMA

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize Amy Mumma of Ellensburg, Washington for her contributions to the wine industry in Washington state and around the world.

Ms. Mumma is the Founder and Director of Central Washington University's World Wine Program. She was recently selected to serve as President of the professional jury for the second International Wine Women Awards, held in Paris, France. The Wine Women Awards is an international competition honoring female leaders in the wine industry. Ms. Mumma was the only American selected to be on the prestigious jury, comprised of well-known wine experts from around the world.

In 2005, she was herself honored as the International Wine Woman of 2005–2006. Ms. Mumma was selected from over 160 candidates from 20 countries for her extensive technical knowledge and unique personal vision of wine, and her understanding of the global wine industry.

Ms. Mumma has presented both nationally and internationally on the topics of wine faults, marketing, and professional wine analysis. Her extensive wine education includes an Advanced Diploma in Wine and Spirits from the Wine and Spirit Education Trust in London and a Diploma of Wine Studies and Tasting from France's University of Burgundy. She is currently a Master of Wine candidate at the prestigious Institute of Masters of Wine in London, England.

In 2003, Ms. Mumma founded the World Wine Program at Central Washington University and has worked hard to enhance the knowledge of students, professionals, and consumers of wine and the wine industry. The program currently includes a Wine Trade Professional Certificate program, a Wine Trade Tourism minor, consumer courses, and Wine Trade Training Courses for wine industry employees.

Ms. Mumma is dedicated to expanding the World Wine Program by establishing a comprehensive program examining wine faults and methods for wine professionals to identify and reduce the number of faults in wine. The program promises to improve wine quality and ensure the continued vitality of the wine industry in Washington state and the Nation.

I commend Ms. Mumma for her achievements in the global wine industry and her commitment to providing world-renowned wine education opportunities to wine professionals, students, and consumers in Washington state.

THE PASSING OF RICHARD
RAUSCH

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the fruitful life of Richard Rausch, who served on the staff here in the House in past years. After Richard Rausch's funeral in June, his friends repaired to the American Legion watering hole on Capitol Hill to celebrate his life in his style. Here in Congress, Richard is remembered for serving on the legislative staff of Rep. Neal Smith of Richard's home state of Iowa and Rep. Phil Burton. Richard's position as national director of the Young Democrats brought him to D.C. and he remained expert in national politics, but local politics became second nature to him. He came to the District from his beloved Iowa, and fell in love with this city and never left. In his home Capitol Hill community, Richard was revered both for his wit, wisdom, and his acumen as a behind the scenes political advisor and serious politician with the good humor not to take himself too seriously. He gave his life to the Democratic Party, attending every Democratic convention for the past 50 years.

A gay activist before most gays dared to come out, Rausch was a founding member and one of only three honorary life members of the Gertrude Stein Club. He was D.C.'s first openly gay member of the Democratic National Committee.

Richard was a quintessentially social animal and volunteer who knew who he was, where he stood and why. At bottom, people and politics were the loves of Richard's delightful and

fully lived life. Although most Americans have yet to commit to a presidential candidate, Richard was making calls for Sen. Barack Obama from his hospital bed during his last days. No doubt, Richard died a happy man, but he left many friends like me, who feel the void of his passing. Long live Richard.

NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR
HEALTHCARE IN IRAQ

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of several of our 7th District constituents who are working to rebuild the shattered healthcare system in Iraq. The collaboration between Dr. Goran Bekhtyar, a Kurdish-American physician from Franklin, Tennessee and Smith & Nephew, a global medical technology company based in Memphis, demonstrates to all of us that individual people can indeed achieve remarkable results.

I came to know Dr. Bekhtyar several years ago through his service in the Tennessee state government. After the fall of the Saddam Hussein regime, Dr. Bekhtyar set aside his medical practice in Franklin, Tennessee to work full-time at rebuilding the medical system in his native Iraq. He founded a non-profit organization, Improved Health Systems for Iraq (IHSI), and has traveled frequently to Iraq to advise health officials. During his brief visits home, he has worked tirelessly to enlist American healthcare providers and companies in his efforts.

Dr. Bekhtyar told me of the primitive conditions and lack of modern equipment that prevents Iraqi doctors from effectively treating their patients. I encouraged him to contact Smith & Nephew, a global medical technology company that specializes in developing Orthopaedic Trauma & Clinical Therapies, Orthopaedic Reconstruction, Endoscopy and Advanced Wound Management products. After meeting with Dr. Bekhtyar, Smith & Nephew leaders such as Dwayne Montgomery, Ken Reali, Zane Wood, and Mark Augusti immediately committed to assisting the efforts of IHSI.

Over the past six months, this team has spearheaded a donation drive through its Project Apollo Program, which will provide nearly half a million dollars of vital and crucial medical devices to orthopaedic surgeons and hospitals in Iraq. The program will provide advanced, world-class products such as non-locking plates and screws, and the Exogen ultrasonic bone healing system. Dr. Bekhtyar will return to Iraq on August 23rd and begin the distribution of the medical devices to Iraqi hospitals and physicians.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending the passion and perseverance of Dr. Goran Bekhtyar and the initiative and generosity of Smith & Nephew. Together, they are setting an example of selflessness that we would all do well to follow.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SENATOR
KENNETH MYERS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker on behalf of Representatives ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, ALCEE HASTINGS, LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART, MARIO DIAZ-BALART, ROBERT WEXLER, RON KLEIN and myself, I rise to honor the life and memory of former Senator Kenneth Myers.

A tireless advocate for the rights of others, Senator Myers served with distinction in the Florida Legislature for 16 years; 4 years in the House of Representatives, followed by 12 years in the Senate. Senator Myers was truly an outstanding leader in the State of Florida. He honorably served as chair of the Dade Delegation and sponsored more than 200 pieces of legislation and many ground-breaking laws. Throughout his life, Senator Myers was a compassionate and dedicated man who provided consummate service to the community.

Born in Miami in 1933, Senator Myers graduated from Miami High School in 1950. He attended the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he earned his bachelor's degree, and went on to earn his law degree at the University of Florida's School of Law.

Coming from a family of compassionate leaders, Senator Myers grew up with a strong sense of commitment and dedication to the community. His father, Stanley Myers, founded the Greater Miami Jewish Federation. His sister, Judy Gilbert-Gould currently serves as the Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council at the Federation. Senator Myers' nephew Robert Gilbert serves as an officer on the Federation's Board, and his nephew Mark Gilbert is active in youth programs at Temple Beth Am in Miami. Senator Myers' niece Carolyn and other family members are following in his footsteps by dedicating their time, talents and service to the community, as well.

Though Senator Myers will be remembered by his former colleagues as an eloquent speaker and fervent debater, his lasting legacy to the people of the State of Florida will be his championing of legislation on behalf of women's rights, the administration of Jackson Memorial Hospital, and his assistance for alcoholics and the mentally ill.

The Jewish prayer for mourning never speaks of death, but often speaks of peace. My colleagues and I extend these words of peace as well as our heartfelt sympathy to the friends and family of Senator Kenneth Myers and to the entire south Florida community during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO ONCOLOGY NURSES

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the important and essential role that oncology nurses play in providing quality cancer care. Oncology nurses provide clinical, psychosocial and supportive care to patients and their families and are integral to our Nation's cancer care delivery system.

I would like to specifically acknowledge Laura Benson from New Rochelle, New York, for her service on the Oncology Nursing Society Board of Directors, as treasurer, and her role as senior director of medical communications and medical information at OSI Pharmaceuticals. Laura, who received her bachelors, masters, and nurse practitioner degrees from Adelphi University, has served on the ONS Board of Directors for the past 3 years. Laura also served as the patient care consultant for Schering Oncology Biotech. In this capacity, she serviced all of Long Island, New York City, and Westchester County.

The Oncology Nursing Society has 13 chapters in my home State of New York. These chapters serve the oncology nurses in the State and support them in their efforts to provide high-quality cancer care to patients and their families throughout New York. Laura has served as president of her chapter and was awarded ONS' AOCN of the Year award in 1999.

I would like to once again acknowledge and thank Laura Benson for her hard work and leadership on the Oncology Nursing Society Board of Directors. As a nurse and leader in the field, Laura has made it her life's mission to help others, and she should be applauded for her accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF MR. DAVID DINKINS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, my brother, Mr. David Dinkins, for his public service career, and to congratulate him on his 80th birthday. I feel it quite appropriate to honor David by highlighting his accomplishments and the contributions he has made, and continues to make, to the city of New York and this great Nation.

David Dinkins, born July 10, 1927, in Trenton, NJ, moved to Harlem in 1953 and has been an integral part of New York since then. He served his country during World War II in the United States Marine Corps, and later by entering the world of politics.

Mr. Dinkins graduated from Howard University in 1950. With politics on his mind, he decided to further pursue his education at Brooklyn Law School in 1953. Mr. Dinkins went on to start a family, marrying Ms. Joyce Burrows and raising two children, Donna and David Jr., in Harlem.

With the support of his family and friends, Mr. Dinkins became more involved in politics. With friends, including Basil Paterson, Percy Sutton, and myself, we became pioneers in the politics of New York City, eventually being named the "gang of four." David went on to become very influential, swiftly moving up in New York's political structure.

Mr. Dinkins has held numerous positions in New York including: New York State Legislature, and New York city clerk. He was elected Manhattan Borough president in 1985 which was a sign of his determination, as this was his third run for office. Mr. Dinkins later ran for mayor, and was elected on November 7, 1989, becoming the first African American to serve as the mayor of New York City.

Inheriting a city in distress, including a budget deficit close to \$2 billion dollars and a seemingly uncontrollable crime rate, David Dinkins had his hands full. The city also faced racial tensions that needed attention quickly, which Mayor Dinkins provided. Mayor Dinkins was able to soothe the city amidst times of turmoil, stemming from disagreements across ethnicities, which were very common during his tenure as mayor. Mr. Dinkins left office after turning the budget deficit into a surplus, and acting as the peacemaker in the city.

As a professor of public affairs at Columbia University, Mr. Dinkins continues to work for others by providing young adults with an education. He is to be commended for his achievements. David Dinkins is a dear friend, and serves as an inspiration to me, as well as many others. As Americans, we should honor him by joining his family in celebration of his 80th birthday.

**BILL TO PROMOTE COOPERATION
WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN
ANALYSIS OF CERTAIN WATER
PROJECTS**

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "Greater Cooperation with Local Governments in Water Project Analysis Act."

This bill would require the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, when acting as a lead federal agency for analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, NEPA, of certain water projects, to grant "cooperating agency" status to affected subdivisions of state governments if they seek that status.

The bill would apply to analysis of any project involving diversion of water from one river basin to another river basin and to any local government with jurisdiction over any portion of such a project.

Its purpose is to ensure a "seat at the table" for these local governments, to make sure they have the fullest opportunity to provide input regarding the potential impacts of such a project.

It's important to note that this bill would not give any state subdivision a "veto" of the water diversion project. It would only ensure the subdivision's more direct involvement of the analysis of such a project.

While the term "cooperating agency" is not part of the statutory language of NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality, CEQ, has issued regulations providing for that status in order to implement the NEPA mandate that Federal agencies responsible for preparing NEPA analyses and documentation do so "in cooperation with State and local governments" and other agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise.

As CEQ has noted, "Studies regarding the efficiency, effectiveness, and value of NEPA analyses conclude that stakeholder involvement is important in ensuring decision-makers have the environmental information necessary to make informed and timely decisions efficiently. Cooperating agency status is a major component of agency stakeholder involvement

that neither enlarges nor diminishes the decision-making authority of any agency involved in the NEPA process." (Memorandum for the Heads of Federal Agencies from James Connaughton, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality, January 30, 2002).

Having the status of a "cooperating agency" does involve some responsibilities as well as opportunities. But it is understandable that local governments often seek to be granted that status—and, at least with regard to the kind of projects covered by this bill, I think that if a local government seeks it, it should be granted.

I was prompted to introduce this bill by the experience of Grand County, located on the west side of the Continental Divide, in connection with two water diversion projects involving some east slope communities and interests that possess rights to water that originates in and flows through Grand County.

Both of these projects have important implications for communities and activities in the county, so I joined with the county in requesting "cooperating agency" status to the County for both of these projects.

However, due to the discretionary nature of granting such status, in one case the County status was granted, in another it was denied.

One of these projects is the Moffat Collection System Project. The Denver Water Department owns and collects water in various streams that flow west from the flanks of the Continental Divide. The Department then pipes this water through a water tunnel associated with the Moffat Tunnel, which is also a railroad tunnel.

In 2004, the Denver Water Department began an effort to increase the volume of water it collects and sends through this Moffat Collection System. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the lead agency on this project and began the necessary NEPA work. And when Grand County requested "cooperating agency" status for this project, the Corps denied their request.

The other project is called the Windy Gap Firming Project. This project also diverts water from Grand County to the eastern slope. The Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District is the prime beneficiary of the water from this project, which is designed to increase the water collection and diversion from Grand County using features such as Lake Granby, Shadow Mountain Reservoir, Grand Lake, and the Alva diversion tunnel.

In this case, the lead Federal agency conducting the NEPA work on this project was the Bureau of Reclamation. Again, Grand County sought "cooperating agency" status—and in this case, the Bureau of Reclamation granted the County that status.

This bill responds to this discrepancy by removing the discretion of either the Corps of Engineers or the Bureau of Reclamation to deny a request for "cooperating agency" status by a county or other local government having jurisdiction over any portion of such a project.

In other words, under the bill if a county or other similar subdivision of a state requests "cooperating agency" status regarding a transbasin-diversion water project located within its jurisdiction, the Corps or Bureau, if acting as the lead agency under NEPA, would be required to grant that request.

I believe that it is important for counties and other subdivisions to be involved in the impor-

tant issues affecting them, such as transbasin water diversion projects. I do not believe that allowing them more direct involvement in these issues should be up to the will of the lead Federal agency if they have made a decision to seek such status.

IN RECOGNITION OF STAFF SERGEANT MICHAEL LEE RUOFF, JR.

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of SSG Michael Lee Ruoff Jr., passed away on July 1, 2007, in Ta'meem, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Michael's wife, Tracy, and two daughters, Danielle and Grace were residing in Schweinfurt, Germany, where Michael's unit was stationed, and had planned to return to their home in Cañon City when Michael returned from the war. Cañon City is also the home of his parents, Mike and Vickie Ruoff.

Born in Ukiah, CA, Michael joined the Army at the age of 18, right out of high school, and was stationed at Fort Carson.

During his 13 years in the Army, Ruoff served in posts around the world as a crew member on M1 Abrams tanks. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, in Schweinfurt, Germany.

SSG Michael Ruoff's father was a Vietnam veteran, and like his father, Michael was a remarkable soldier, who could always be counted on.

Michael was a devoted man with deep beliefs, who, on July 1, 2007, made the most selfless sacrifice by giving his life to uphold the American ideals of freedom and democracy.

I present my humble gratitude to SSG Michael Lee Ruoff for his service to our country and offer my deepest heartfelt condolences to his family.

IMPROVING FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE TO DEFEND THE NATION AND THE CONSTITUTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I have reservations about this bill, but I will vote for it today.

It has just been introduced, and we have had only a short time to review it. And those of us who do not serve on the Intelligence Committee have had to depend on news reports and the debate on the floor for information regarding the events that have led to its being considered today.

We have been informed that Admiral McConnell, Director of National Intelligence, has asserted that under current law there is a critical collection gap in our electronic surveillance capabilities, and that the administration

wants that gap to be addressed through legislation.

The bill before us evidently is intended to respond to that request. It would make clear that no warrant or court order is required for our intelligence agencies to monitor communications between people located outside the United States, even if those communications pass through the United States or the surveillance device is located within the United States. The point of this clarification is to resolve doubts about the status of communications between foreign persons located overseas that pass through routing stations here in the United States.

I have no reservation in supporting this clarification to help resolve questions related to changes in communications technology since enactment of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA. And I think it is useful that the bill reiterates that individual warrants, based on probable cause, are required when surveillance is directed at individuals in the United States.

The bill requires the Attorney General to submit procedures for international surveillance to the FISA Court for approval and authorizes the court to issue a "basket warrant" for individuals or foreign powers, including al Qaeda, outside the United States based on a review of those procedures without making separate determinations about individuals to be subject to the surveillance. Under the bill, there would be an initial 15-day period when international surveillance can begin while a "basket warrant" is submitted to the FISA Court. It allows for up to two 15-day extensions while the court rules and allows the court to compel cooperation by carriers during that period. And it requires the Justice Department's Inspector General to conduct and provide to the court and the Congress an audit every 60 days of communications involving any U.S. persons that are intercepted under a "basket warrant."

In general, I am wary of the concept of "basket warrants," which are not normal under our laws. But I am prepared to support this part of the bill on the understanding that it is limited in scope and not applicable within the United States and with the expectation that the question will be revisited if the audits indicate a need for reconsideration of this part of the legislation. In this context, I am glad to note that this legislation will expire in 120 days. I think that is appropriate in light of the very short time we have had to consider the bill and the importance of the subject. This sunset clause means that we will be required to revisit the issue and will reduce the likelihood that any errors caused by today's expedited procedure will persist for an undue period.

Madam Speaker, the administration is not fully supportive of this bill and evidently would prefer a broader grant of authority for surveillance. I am prepared to consider their arguments, but in the meantime I will vote for this bill in order to provide an immediate response to the problem they have identified and to advance the measure to the Senate for further consideration.

ENSURING MILITARY READINESS THROUGH STABILITY AND PREDICTABILITY DEPLOYMENT POLICY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3159, the so-called "Ensuring Military Readiness through Stability and Predictability Deployment Policy Act of 2007." This ill-conceived and dangerous piece of legislation will lead to American troops stuck in Iraq with no reinforcements and no replacements.

All Americans long for the day when our troops can return from foreign lands. With U.S. troops deployed in over 35 countries around the world, their families count the days until their loved ones come home. However, our Nation must never lose sight that each soldier, sailor, airman, and marine has a mission to complete: to protect the citizens and interests of the United States.

H.R. 3159 has a lofty goal that is supported by every American, every Member of Congress, the Secretary of Defense and the President: to provide time at home to Iraq for our men and women in uniform between deployments. This legislation would require a one-to-one ratio between deployments in Iraq and home station for active duty forces, and a one-to-three ratio for National Guard and Reserve. However, the Department of Defense, DoD, currently has higher standards of a one-to-two ratio between all deployments, regardless of location, for active forces and a one-to-five ratio for Reserve forces.

So, the question must be asked, why has H.R. 3159, with its lesser standards than DoD's own standards, elicited a Presidential veto, opposition from the U.S. Military leadership, and widespread resistance in Congress? Because this legislation is a political ruse and would do serious harm to our troops in Iraq and our national security.

Although this legislation would prohibit back-to-back deployments to Iraq, H.R. 3159 still would allow troops to deploy to Iraq and then to another nation, such as Afghanistan or the Philippines, without restriction. Let me be clear, contrary to the arguments of the Democrats, this legislation would not ensure dwell times for our troops.

However, it will do real harm to our troops in Iraq—leaving our troops without reinforcements and without replacements. H.R. 3159 would hinder the flexibility of Pentagon leaders to place troops where they are needed, and when they are needed. This legislation would not change the mission in Iraq or decrease the required number of troops. But it will force our troops to stay in Iraq longer—waiting for their replacements. And if additional troops are required—this bill would hinder any reinforcements from arriving in a timely fashion. Holding our troops without replacements or reinforcements does not constitute support, as Democrats have asserted.

Although it is true this bill includes a waiver provision—it only allows troops to be deployed after a 30-day congressional notification. During war, time is always of the essence. Throughout history, many battles and lives

have been lost due to delays in reinforcements or replacements. When our military commanders urgently request a special operations or explosive ordnance disposal team, our President and military leadership needs to have the flexibility to send that team immediately. Under this legislation, the President would have to provide notification to Congress, wait 30 days, and then send these urgently needed forces. This is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, these are dangerous times for our troops and for our Nation. Our military commanders need the flexibility to effectively and safely carry out the will of this Nation. We must not hamstring our Nation's warriors. Therefore, I ask all my colleagues to join with me in opposition to this bill.

CELEBRATING NEW YORK'S AFRICAN DAY PARADE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise up to honor what is expected to be an exciting first in the history of my congressional district—New York's first ever African Day Parade and Street Festival this Sunday, August 5, 2007.

I can think of no better place to hold such an event than in the village of Harlem. Although many people around the world hold common African value and traditions, unity of purpose and a shared history does not equal a monolithic culture. Too often "Africa" is presented without the richness of diversity, an oversight that helps continue backward stereotypes and misconceptions.

This event presents a unique opportunity for all New Yorkers to learn about the different cultures within the continent's diaspora. It will bring together a wide range of representatives from dance groups and vendors to fashion designers, writers and musicians—all of whom promise to showcase their own perspective of the continent's tapestry.

This grand celebration is also a great opportunity for our recently arrived African brothers and sisters to build bridges—both within their smaller communities, but also with their African American and Latino cousins. Only by growing these relationships can we achieve common goals and dreams. Only by working together can we move closer to the country and the world that all our children need and deserve.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2272, AMERICA COMPETES ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to strongly support the conference report for H.R. 2272, the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education and Science, COMPETES, Act of 2007.

Science, technology, engineering, and math STEM, research and education are the key to

much of our country's success for the last 200 years. America has long been a center for science and engineering discovery—in the last few decades alone, American ingenuity has transformed our Nation and the world with the personal computer and the internet. Going forward, new innovations will continue to be critical, both in maintaining a solid industrial and economic base and increasing our standard of living.

Federal agencies, such as the National Science Foundation, NSF, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, and the Department of Energy's Office of Science, play a key role by funding cutting-edge research and training the next generation of scientists and engineers. And nothing will occur without federal investment in STEM research and education—we must continue this strong Federal support to reinforce our global competitiveness and our prosperity.

As a cosponsor of H.R. 2272 and a House conferee, I am proud to say that this legislation will set us in the right direction. It will help strengthen and improve research and education efforts at NSF, NIST, DOE's Office of Science, and the Department of Education, as well as update the High Performance Computing Act of 1991 and recognize the important role that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, plays in STEM education and research. This bill will help to ensure that the United States continues to be a science and technology leader.

H.R. 2272 includes a needed funding increase for overall laboratory research at NIST. As part of the American Competitiveness initiative, NIST will use these funds to expand upon its world-class research, ensuring that the United States will continue to be globally competitive in many industries.

NIST is particularly important to me because one of its key laboratories is located in Boulder, Colorado, in my district. The Boulder labs employ more than 350 people and serve as a science and engineering center for significant research across the Nation. The increase in research funding will help the scientists here expand our knowledge about topics ranging from nanotechnology to material science.

A critical component of this legislation is that it includes funding for construction at these laboratories. NIST's Boulder facilities have contributed to great scientific advances, but they are now over 50 years old and have not been well maintained. Many environmental factors such as the humidity and vibrations from traffic can affect the quality of research performed at NIST. In fiscal year 2007, NIST-Boulder will begin an extension of Building 1 to make room for a Precision Metrology lab. This new facility will allow for incredibly precise control of temperature, relative humidity, air filtration and vibration to advance research on critical technologies, such as atomic clocks telecommunications, and nanomaterials. To complete this extension, NIST will need further funding in fiscal years 2008 and 2009. H.R. 2272 authorizes this critical funding.

I am also pleased to see that the legislation reauthorizes and gradually increases funding for key technology transfer programs like the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, MEP, program and the Technology Innovation Program, TIP, formerly known as the Advanced Technology Program, ATP.

For NSF, H.R. 2272 will continue the effort to double its funding over a 10-year time pe-

riod by authorizing almost \$22 billion for fiscal years 2008–2010. The bill will also encourage the participation of more scientists who have not received NSF funding in the past through 1-year seed grants. By targeting these grants toward these new recipients, the legislation will help support early career researchers and encourage higher-risk research.

As co-chair of the STEM Education Caucus, I am also pleased that H.R. 2272 contains support and funding for NSF's STEM education programs. These programs include the Math and Science Partnerships program and the Noyce Scholarships Program, as well as several STEM education grants that focus on teacher professional development. These programs will help increase the number of well-qualified science and math teachers across the country, both through creating more teachers from current college students and by providing better training for the teachers already in our schools.

The bill will increase funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Science, providing nearly \$17 million over fiscal years 2008–2010. The Office of Science funds much of our country's physical science and has helped advance our knowledge about energy, a critical issue of both national and economic security. This increase will keep the Office of Science on track to double its funding over 10 years.

As chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, I am pleased that H.R. 2272 contains a number of provisions that highlight the important role that the NASA can and does play in promoting innovation and competitiveness. To that end, the conference report includes language to ensure that NASA will be a full participant in all interagency innovation and competitiveness initiatives as well as STEM initiatives. That's important, because the record shows that past NASA R&D activities have contributed to the vitality of today's economy through NASA's development of a host of innovative technologies. In addition, NASA still has a "brand" that can inspire young people to pursue careers in science and engineering, and we should capitalize on that fact by involving NASA in interagency STEM initiatives whenever appropriate. The conference report does just that, and it also encourages NASA to use its undergraduate student research program to more directly engage college and university students in NASA-related research.

In addition to NASA's basic science and research programs, H.R. 2272 recognizes and endorses the significant role that NASA's aeronautics programs play in ensuring America's competitiveness. However, I think it is clear that investing in aeronautics is critical not only to our competitiveness, but also to our quality of life, the safety and efficiency of our Nation's air transportation system, and our military strength. We need to ensure that NASA continues to maintain its commitment to a meaningful and robust aeronautics R&D program.

Finally, H.R. 2272 notes the role that the International Space Station, ISS, if properly utilized, can play in helping to promote interest in math and science. It thus directs NASA to make concrete plans to implement at least some of the innovative educational projects proposed by an interagency task force that looked at the contributions that the ISS could make to STEM education. In addition, the con-

ference report also directs NASA to come up with a clear plan to identify and support ISS research that can contribute to innovation and competitiveness. As was made clear at a recent hearing held by my subcommittee, NASA needs to do much more than it has been doing to get a good return on the sizeable investment that the Nation has made in the ISS. As was further pointed out at the hearing, the ISS offers a unique capability for research in a number of disciplines that could benefit both NASA as well as our citizens back here on Earth—but NASA needs to step up to the challenge of making sure that research is adequately supported.

I would like to thank House Science and Technology Committee Chairman GORDON and Ranking Member HALL, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman BINGAMAN and Ranking Member DOMENICI, House Education and Labor Committee Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MCKEON, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Chairman INOUE and Ranking Member STEVENS, and the other conferees, for their work on this critical bipartisan legislation.

I think we all recognize that investing in basic research and STEM education is critical for a strong economy and national security, and H.R. 2272 will help us improve the critical support for STEM education and research. I encourage all of my colleagues to vote for this important legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SCOTT A.M. OSWELL

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of CWO Scott A.M. Oswell, who passed away on July 4, 2007, in Mosul, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Chief Warrant Officer Oswell died of injuries sustained when his helicopter crashed while trying to save another man's life.

Scott's wife and three children reside in Olympia, Washington, and his parents, Barry and Nancy, reside in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Chief Warrant Officer Oswell enlisted in the Marine Corps following high school, and later joined the Army.

During his time in the Army, Chief Warrant Officer Oswell was selected for flight training, and earned his instructor pilot rating on the Kiowa Warrior helicopter. He was not only a skilled pilot, but also a first-class soldier, who earned several medals throughout his career. A distinguished member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, the selective organization which honors members of the military who demonstrate leadership, professionalism, and care for their soldiers' welfare, Chief Warrant Officer Oswell embodied all of these ideas.

Chief Warrant Officer Oswell comes from a military family dedicated to serving this country to ensure the ideals of liberty and democracy, which we hold so dear.

He was a remarkable soldier, a devoted husband and a proud father, who served the Nation he loved sacrificing his life for our security and freedom. On a day when we celebrate the birth of our country, Chief Warrant

Officer Oswell paid the ultimate price, and for that we are eternally grateful.

I thank CWO Scott A.M. Oswell for his service to our country and offer my deepest heartfelt condolences to his family.

LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2831, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Although I join with all my colleagues in steadfast opposition to pay discrimination, this ill-advised, over-reaching, and disingenuous overhaul of civil rights law is the wrong approach.

Pay discrimination is not a partisan issue. Pay discrimination strikes at the heart of the American Dream. For more than 40 years, Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act has made it illegal for employers to determine an employee's pay-scale based on his or her gender. I wholeheartedly agree and support this law. Every American should be able to work hard, play by the rules, and make a living for his or her family. We do not stand for gender discrimination in the workplace.

This legislation is bad politics rather than good policy. H.R. 2831 was supposedly written to remedy a sad situation for one person—Lilly Ledbetter. She was apparently paid significantly less than her counterparts at Good-year Tire Company during her tenure there. Decades later Ms. Ledbetter filed a claim of discrimination. Taking her claim through the courts, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on May 29, 2007, that the statute of limitations had unfortunately run out.

Despite saying that H.R. 2831 simply restores prior law, by overturning a Supreme Court ruling against Ms. Ledbetter, in reality, Democrats will gut a decades-old statute of limitations that prevents the filing of "stale" claims and protects against abuse of the legal system.

Current law rightly provides a statute of limitations to file a discrimination claim, up to 300 days after the alleged workplace discrimination occurred. However, under this bill, employees or retirees could sue for pay discrimination years, even decades, after the alleged discrimination.

How can a company defend itself when the accused offenders left the company decades before? The answer is—they can't. And that is exactly the answer desired by the trial lawyers who support this legislation. This legislation will not end pay discrimination, but it will certainly encourage frivolous claims and lawsuits. It is inevitable that under this legislation employees will sue companies for reasons that have little if anything to do with the accused discrimination.

Not only is H.R. 2831 the wrong approach to deal with this serious issue, but this legislation also has the threat of a Presidential veto. A Presidential veto means there is no chance action will be taken on this important issue. If Democrats were serious about dealing with this issue, they would work with the President and Republicans to draft serious legislation

rather than move forward with this political stunt.

Madam Speaker, the issue of pay discrimination is too important to consider this poorly crafted, politically motivated piece of legislation. However, as much as we sympathize with Ms. Ledbetter, H.R. 2831 is bad legislation for our Nation. Let us join together, work in a bipartisan manner, and craft legislation that addresses pay discrimination while not destroying decades-worth of solid employment discrimination law. Until then, I ask my colleagues to join with me in opposing this legislation.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL DOMINICAN DAY PARADE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I join with the hundreds of thousands of Dominican residents of my congressional district and the millions of Dominicans around the world in celebrating August 12's 25th Annual Dominican Day Parade.

What was once an expression of pride through Washington Heights has grown to be one of the largest and loudest displays of cultural pride seen along New York's Sixth Avenue, a culmination of a series of events celebrating the Dominican Republic's traditional second day of Independence, El Día de la Restauración or Restoration Day.

It is also a time to remember Dominican achievements, on the island and in the U.S. A time to remind the world that many of the hemisphere's first institutions were established on the shores of Quisqueya, including the first cathedral and the oldest university. A time to remind the Nation that from the first big wave of Dominican migration in the 1960s to the most recent wave in the 1990s, Dominicans have struggled and worked hard to become a part of our national identity. Their contributions can be found in every facet of U.S. life—from baseball stars like Pedro Martinez, David "Big Papi" Ortiz or Alex Rodriguez to fashion legend Oscar de la Renta to the thousands of professionals that do battle as soldiers, doctors, lawyers, journalists, educators and social workers.

I can see that hard work in my own congressional district. Dominicans have a zest for grassroots participation, as evidenced by the number of Dominicans, especially women, who are involved in government or as leaders of professional and nonprofit organizations. They are an entrepreneurial group with a keen nose for business and a yearning to be their own boss, as evidenced by the way they have transformed the livery cab, travel, and hair salon industry.

Finally, who can deny the strong desire that Dominicans have for education. Although graduation rates for all Latinos are way too low, more and more Dominicans are choosing to go back to school, get their GED and enroll into the city's university system. This is seen by the fact that 50 percent of are Latino's that are enrolled in CUNY is of Dominican descent. In the number of after-school programs and activities that there are in northern Manhattan and other Dominican barrios.

So I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this day and congratulating founder Nelson Peña and the hundreds of volunteers that help put on this grand display of pride. The success of our current democracy depends on us keeping our doors open to communities that energize our economy and our local neighborhoods. It depends on us remembering that we are a Nation of immigrants and that how we treat our newest Americans will go a long way to how we are treated around the world.

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST MOON LANDING

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, on the recent anniversary of our Nation's first Moon landing, I had the privilege of attending a grand opening ceremony at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, honoring the completion of a new facility to house the historic Saturn V rocket. Because it's been a while since we've used this marvel of engineering, it's easy to overlook the fact that this rocket was capable of sending our astronauts to the Moon. Many public and industry partners played a role in restoring the rocket to its original glory, and this new facility will allow everyone to appreciate the incredible historic impact of this wonderful machine. As we continue to advocate for human space exploration and reach out further in the universe, we will always look to the Saturn V as inspiration for our most important continued quest, reaching out into space.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE STATE OF ISRAEL ON CHAIRING A UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution congratulating the State of Israel on chairing a United Nations committee for the first time in history.

For the first time ever, an Israeli diplomat, Mr. Ron Adam, Director of the Israeli Foreign Ministry's U.N. Political Affairs Department, has been chosen to chair a U.N. committee: the Committee on Program and Coordination, CPC.

This 33 U.N. member body provides an important role to the functioning of the U.N., as it approves the work plan for all U.N. agencies and bodies.

Mr. Adam is highly qualified to represent his country at the U.N. He was former director of the Israel Foreign Ministry's U.N. Political Affairs Department and had been at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1990. From 1998–2002, he was a Counselor at the Israeli delegation to the U.N. Since 2004, he served as the director of the U.N. Political Affairs Department, in the Division for the United Nations and International Organizations. Last

year, Mr. Adam served as the deputy chair of the CPC, representing the European Group.

Madam Speaker, Israel was accepted in 2000 as part of the Western Europe and Others Group, WEOG, giving it the right to apply for positions on U.N. committees. The country already sits on several important committees and representatives from Israel have served as deputy chairs in the United Nations numerous times. However, this marks the first time that an Israeli has been chosen to chair a United Nations committee.

For far too long, Israel has been considered a second class nation at the United Nations, unfairly subjected to unjustified one sided attacks from other nations. The facts make the case themselves: 6 out of 10 emergency special sessions called by the United Nations General Assembly have directly condemned Israel, while no emergency sessions have been held against some of the world's worst cases of genocide or repressive regimes.

Israel is also the only U.N. member state denied membership by all of the U.N.'s five regional groups which elect U.N. bodies in Geneva.

Israel also remains the only country of the Western and Others Group to have a conditional status, thereby limiting its ability to caucus with its fellow members of this regional grouping, compete for open seats, or run for positions in major bodies of the United Nations.

The fact that some member states have chosen to use the U.N. as an attack mechanism toward Israel while blatantly ignoring the despicable human rights records of other states truly undermines the United Nations' credibility, integrity and effectiveness.

I am hopeful that Mr. Adam's appointment will help contribute to the normalization of Israel's bilateral and multilateral relations, as well as challenge future disproportionate United Nations condemnation of Israel.

I am also hopeful that the newly appointed United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will work to end any unfair vilification of Israel at the United Nations and to use his good offices to support Israel's bid to join the Asian regional grouping.

Finally, I am hopeful that Israel will be granted membership on the Security Council for 2019 and gain full participation rights in the United Nations.

I ask for my colleagues' support and urge the House Leadership to bring this legislation to the floor for its swift consideration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 824 and 825, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO JOY ROSENHEIM SIMONSON

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, today I wish to pay tribute to Joy Rosenheim Simonson who passed away just a few weeks ago. Joy was a leading advocate for women's rights at a time when that was a steep uphill battle.

Joy rose to prominence in 1982, shortly after Ronald Reagan became President of the United States. At the first meeting of the National Advisory Council on Women's Educational Programs, of which Joy was the chairwoman, the Council replaced her with the notorious anti-woman's rights advocate Phyllis Schlafly, who quickly proposed abolishing the council.

The firing of Joy led to an uproar among women's rights groups around the country, and several Members of Congress, including our distinguished colleague from Massachusetts, my good friend Congressman BARNEY FRANK, denounced her removal. BARNEY went further than simply denouncing the outrage. He immediately hired her as a staff member of the Subcommittee on Employment and Housing of the Committee on Government Operations. One of the wisest decisions I made was to keep Joy as a member of my staff. Joy was with me for the six years I served as Chair of that subcommittee. She was a loyal, devoted and energetic staff member. We met many times a week to plan subcommittee investigations and hearings. She sat right behind me in our frequent hearings.

Joy had a wonderful sense of issues that needed to be dealt with, and she had excellent ideas of how to take the next steps in promoting women's rights. We had outstanding hearings that resulted in tough reports adopted by the Committee dealing with women executives (the glass ceiling), discrimination against women owning automobile dealerships, problems women face finding daycare, discrimination against women who breastfeed their infants, and many, many others. When Joy retired from working for the Congress, she was the oldest staff member of the House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, Joy Simonson dedicated her life to public service. Her decade of service on the staff of the Employment and Housing Subcommittee was only a small part of her very distinguished career of public service. She led several organizations devoted to women's issues and helped break down barriers for women. Born in New York City, Mrs. Simonson moved to Washington after graduating from Bryn Mawr College to serve on the War Manpower Commission in the early 1940's. Later, in 1945 she worked for the UN Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in Egypt and Yugoslavia, and then worked at Army headquarters in Frankfurt Germany. It was during this period overseas that she met and married her husband Richard Simonson. In 1948, they moved back to Washington, DC. Joy and Richard are the parents of a son and a daughter.

Joy Simonson was the first woman to head the District of Columbia's Alcohol Beverage Control Board, serving from 1964 until 1972. During this time she also founded the National Association of Commissions for women, and served as its president for three terms. She also notably fought for Title IX, protested the exclusion of women from the Augusta National Golf Club, and in 1967 organized the D.C. Commission for Women.

In 1992 Mrs. Simonson was elected to the D.C. Women's Hall of Fame for her untiring work on behalf of women. She was also later recognized by the National Center for Women, who gave her the prestigious Formothers Award.

Madam Speaker, Joy was here on Capitol Hill several months ago—after the election which finally gave us the first woman as Speaker of the House of Representatives. She was delighted and pleased beyond measure at seeing a woman preside over this body, where she devoted over a decade of remarkable service during her remarkable life.

I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Joy Rosenheim Simonson.

VETERANS' HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2874, the Veterans' Health Care Improvement Act of 2007, which will make the readjustment period easier for our troops returning from combat. It focuses on the improvement of mental health services as well as homelessness prevention.

These brave men and women in uniform have dedicated themselves to defending our freedom, and as a grateful nation we owe them whatever support we can provide to ensure that after they return home our veterans have their needs met.

This bill puts into place a number of important and timely measures to improve the care offered to veterans. It allows for readjustment counseling and mental health services provided by qualified peers. This will allow veterans to receive whatever therapy they might require to readjust to civilian life from fellow veterans who have undergone a similar process, and are best placed to offer understanding and quality care.

I am especially pleased that this legislation contains provisions addressing the needs of female veterans. It also deals with the prevention of homelessness for returning troops. The problem of homelessness is worse for the veteran community than society at large, and thus we must ensure that all programs, for both men and women, are of a high standard.

Finally, H.R. 2874 offers more support to low-income veteran families living in permanent housing. The Federal Government needs to provide more assistance to these families and the organizations that help care for them, and I am pleased that this bill offers that assistance. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation and support our troops as they return from their courageous missions.

LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT
OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2831, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2007, which will correct a gross injustice done in the recent Supreme Court decision in the case *Ledbetter v. Goodyear*.

The Supreme Court's May 29, 2007, ruling in *Ledbetter* reversed decades of precedent that helped victims of pay discrimination to pursue claims against their employers. Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, employees illegally discriminated against in pay can file claims to recoup that pay within 180 days of being wrongfully denied pay. Unfortunately, the *Ledbetter* decision concluded that victims need to file claims within 180 days of a discriminatory decision being made, rather than within 180 days of receiving a discriminatory paycheck, as previous jurisprudence had mandated.

It is wholly unreasonable to require individuals who are discriminated against to file suit within 180 days of the illegal action. Workplace norms mean that co-workers rarely ask each other about their pay. Moreover, one relatively small discriminatory decision can compound over time, meaning that decisions that are not immediately obvious can nevertheless have profound impacts over the course of an employee's career.

Congress recognized 43 years ago with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that it is wrong to treat people differently on the basis of their gender, religion or the color of their skin. The decision in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear* effectively eliminates the primary remedy for thousands of Americans who face illegal and immoral discrimination.

The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act provides a straightforward and efficient solution for the mistaken decision in *Ledbetter*. This bill simply clarifies that each discriminatory paycheck qualifies as a new violation that gives employees 180 days to file claims to recover pay. This policy has been the law of the land for the last 43 years, has worked well and should be reinstated.

For over four decades, the United States Federal Government has made it clear that discrimination on the basis of one's race, gender, or religion will not be tolerated. It is our responsibility to do everything in our power to ensure that all employees are treated fairly and respectfully, and this bill is an important step forward in that direction. I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this legislation and I commend my colleague and friend, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for introducing the bill.

IN HONOR OF CORPORAL JAMES H. McRAE, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a brave and

dedicated hero of the Fort Worth community and of our Nation.

Cpl James H. McRae was a proud United States Marine and a true American hero who gallantly and selflessly gave his life for his country on July 24 during combat operations in Diyala Province, Iraq.

James enlisted in the toughest of the military branches during time of war, which speaks volumes about his character and patriotism.

Assigned to the Marine Expeditionary Force, James was a non-commissioned officer—the backbone of the corps and a true leader.

Our thoughts and prayers are with James' parents and all of his family and friends.

Our community and Nation honor Corporal McRae's memory and we are grateful for his faithful and distinguished service to our Nation and the Corps of Marines that he loved.

Cpl James Heath McRae will not be forgotten. His memory lives on through his family and the legacy of selfless service that he so bravely imprinted on our hearts.

VETERANS' BENEFITS
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1315, the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2007, which would expand housing assistance for disabled veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

The Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act amends title 38 of the United States Code so that specially-adaptive housing assistance can be provided to certain members of the Armed Forces who are disabled and residing temporarily in housing owned by family.

America's veterans have sacrificed in the defense and well-being of our country and should be rewarded for their bravery and compensated for their sacrifices. Therefore, we have a duty to see to it that the appropriate benefits are made available to every disabled veteran, regardless of residential status. We must remember that with nearly 30,000 troops wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, more young veterans are in need of disability assistance.

Mr. Speaker, this bill provides the necessary revisions that will enable more veterans to receive the special housing assistance they need. I fully support this bill and encourage others to do so as well.

STATEMENT HONORING HOUSTON
NEWSMAN MARVIN ZINDLER**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a wonderful man and longtime Houston television legend, Marvin Zindler. Mr. Zindler passed away yesterday after a battle with inoperable pancreatic cancer and he will be sorely missed.

Marvin Zindler was born August 10, 1921, in Houston, where he went on to become an irre-

placeable community figure. Marvin's father Abe, who openly opposed the Ku Klux Klan and was a card-carrying member of the NAACP, helped instill in Marvin the values that made him so valued in the community. As a newsman, Marvin became a pioneer in consumer reporting and a tireless advocate for those who, without his assistance, would be without a voice in having their needs addressed.

Mr. Zindler initially came to prominence through a week long special on the "Chicken Ranch," an illegal brothel just outside of La Grange, TX, that local authorities tolerated for decades. This special report quickly forced the closure of the brothel, which had been open since 1905. Subsequently, Mr. Zindler was known largely for his self-described "Rat and Roach Report," in which he read reports on health department restaurant inspections on news broadcasts on ABC affiliate KTRK. These reports consistently aided consumers looking for information on the safety of the food at local restaurants.

Mr. Zindler advocated aggressively for low-income individuals in desperate need of reconstructive surgery. Earlier this year, despite his illness, Mr. Zindler's advocacy played a major role in acquiring mechanical hands for seven Iraqi amputees. Because of his extensive advocacy, Mr. Zindler's Action 13 office received nearly 100,000 letters annually asking for assistance on issues ranging from Social Security benefits to housing discrimination to immigration. He took pride in ensuring that his office responded to every single request that they received.

It is eminently clear that Marvin Zindler was no ordinary newsman. He used his influence to constantly stand up for the underprivileged who needed his assistance—and he made a difference. Mr. Zindler profoundly changed the city of Houston and the very concept of consumer reporting, and his contribution will never be forgotten.

I would like to send my condolences to Mr. Zindler's family, friends, and all those who will miss him dearly. I hope that, even in this sad time, Mr. Zindler's courage and fights for justice can serve as an example for us all.

IN HONOR OF CORPORAL RHETT A.
BUTLER, UNITED STATES ARMY**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a brave and dedicated hero of the State of Texas and of our Nation.

Corporal Rhett A. Butler was a United States Army soldier and a true American hero who gallantly and selflessly gave his life for his country on July 20, 2007 during combat operations north of Baghdad, Iraq.

Assigned to the Second Infantry Division, Rhett enlisted during time of war, which speaks volumes about his character and patriotism.

Moreover, he was a leader and mentor to younger soldiers and his service as a Non-Commissioned Officer in the infantry exemplifies this spirit.

Our thoughts and prayers are with CPL Butler's parents and all of his family and friends.

Our community and Nation honor corporal Butler's memory and we are grateful for his faithful and distinguished service to America.

Corporal Rhett A. Butler will not be forgotten. His memory lives on through his family and the legacy of selfless service that he so bravely imprinted on our hearts.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 49, which commemorates the 75th anniversary of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and honors those members of our Armed Forces who have received Purple Hearts for their dedicated service.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart was founded in 1932 and is composed solely of veterans who have received Purple Hearts, making it the only veteran organization that is composed of only combat veterans. The organization promotes education, fraternity, service, and patriotism, and they provide service for veterans and their families who are in need. In addition, they work to support relevant legislative initiatives.

As an organization committed to the care and support of combat veterans, the Military Order of the Purple Heart deserves the recognition of this Congress for 75 years of hard work serving our Nation's brave veterans of the Armed Forces.

I cannot begin to express the gratitude I feel to the members of our Armed Forces, both past and present, for the gift of freedom that they have given to every American. They have given freely of themselves to defend this great Nation deserve our everlasting gratitude and respect.

We have the privilege and responsibility of both taking care of and honoring the sacrificial service of our combat veterans. I urge my colleagues to vote for the adoption of this resolution.

SENSE OF HOUSE THAT JAPAN SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR ITS IMPERIAL ARMED FORCES' COERCION OF YOUNG WOMEN INTO SEXUAL SLAVERY

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 121, which expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Japan should formally apologize and accept historical responsibility for its Imperial Armed Forces' coercion of young women into sexual slavery during its occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the end of World War II.

During this time period, the government of Japan created a system of forced military prostitution where young females were used as involuntary sexual servants or "comfort women" in one of the largest cases of human trafficking in the 20th century. Over 200,000 women are believed to have been coerced into these government sanctioned programs, and only an estimated 25 percent survived this horrible and painstaking ordeal. Although the government of Japan has made some efforts to address these past grievances, they have repeatedly undermined the sincerity of their own statements by engaging in questionable practices to disregard these unfortunate events. Some Japanese textbooks have attempted to downplay the existence of "comfort women," and several officials have tried to dilute or retract previously expressed apologies.

The nation of Japan has long been a valuable friend and ally of the United States, and I understand their desire to look forward to the future, but that should not come at the expense of ignoring the horrible events of the past. In light of its historical shortcomings, the Japanese government must be willing to publicly accept responsibility for its past sins and offer a sincere and formal apology if they wish to be forgiven by the international community. They should also discourage any efforts to refute the existence of "comfort women." It is important for future generations to be aware of these events in order to ensure that these tragedies will not be repeated. There is no greater enemy than ignorance of the past.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the many women and families that were affected by these terrible crimes. Please join me in voting for H. Res. 121 so that we can ensure that this tragedy is properly addressed and acknowledged.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus to express my concern for diminishing access to higher education opportunities.

We live in a country where the education system is flawed from the ground up. The lack of proper instruction throughout elementary, middle, and secondary school has left many of the under-represented minorities even further behind their classmates. The lack of provisions and support provided to schools in historically black neighborhoods has caused the number of African-Americans applying and enrolled in professional schools to drop.

The number of African-Americans in both the medical and legal professions is anemic compared to the number that live in our country. Even though African Americans make up over 13 percent of the country's population, a recent study found that they make up only 3.9 percent of lawyers and 3.3 percent of physicians.

Madam Speaker, there are a multitude of reasons as to why African-American presence

in law school dropped from 7.5 percent to 6.8 percent from 1994 to 2004. Many blame the law school admissions' over-reliance on the LSAT (Law School Admissions Test). This test, which has never been proven to be a successful forecaster of achievement in law school or aptitude as a lawyer, usually makes up over half the criteria that law school admissions counselors use to base their admissions decisions on. The inflated dependence on the LSAT, which studies show is in and of itself biased, has led to a sharp decline of both applications and enrollment by African-Americans into law school.

The necessity for schools to raise the median LSAT scores of the applicants they accept has caused a dramatic drop in the number of African-American law school students. In a study from 2002 to 2004, the 25th percentile LSAT score for law schools in my home State of Florida rose from 149 to 151. In that same time period, African-American enrollment in Florida law school dropped from 557 to 508 students, or nearly 10 percent, while total enrollment rose by 14 percent.

Madam Speaker, we need to challenge this disturbing trend or we are facing a future in which there is a complete lack of African-American presence in the legal world. This trend challenges the right of African-Americans to engage in the legal process of this great Nation.

One major issue that we can influence is the lack of support and education for those interested in a career in law. Many young African-American high school and college students have not had the exposure or have become discouraged by the mass of reports of diminishing African American law school enrollment. With encouragement from current black lawyers and those in support of more diversity in the legal profession, we can help build a proper education system for all students of this Nation.

This is not just about law school. We need to work together, from as early as elementary school, to provide the necessary tools to challenge the current pattern of disinvestment in education. Our educational system must give everyone the proper training and experience necessary to enter higher education and, someday, the professional world.

BELATED THANK YOU TO THE MERCHANT MARINERS OF WORLD WAR II ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Merchant Mariners who served in our Nation during World War II and were an integral part of our victory. They suffered the highest casualty rate of any of the branches of the service while delivering troops, tanks, food, airplanes, fuel and other needed supplies to every theater of the war. Without the services of the Merchant Mariners, victory would have been more difficult, and certainly more lives would have been lost.

Unfortunately, they were denied any rights under the GI Bill of Rights. The Merchant Mariners became the forgotten service. It

wasn't until 1988 that they were given any benefits, and even then they did not qualify for some portions of the GI Bill.

I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 23, the Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2007, under which certain honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Merchant Marine would receive a monthly benefit of \$1,000. This benefit to the veterans (or their survivors) would be an important step in recognizing their crucial contribution to the protection and preservation of the freedom of the United States of America.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Merchant Mariners who deserve recognition and benefits for their service to the United States of America during World War II.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to commemorate the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's, SCLC, 50th Anniversary. Committed to obtaining and securing equal rights for African Americans and human rights for all people, the SCLC is a prominent body of influence. The organization, along with others including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), gave African Americans and other minorities a sense of pride when times seemed dismal and bleak.

Beginning with the Montgomery Bus Boycott in December 1955, the then Southern Leadership Conference on Transportation and Non-violent Integration was founded by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Ralph David Abernathy. Although it was initially thought by some to be of an antagonist nature, in its early years the organization prided itself on education initiatives and voter registration campaigns to ensure that their young people had a voice in the political process. With the successful conclusion of the Montgomery Bus Boycott in February 1957, the group changed its name to the Southern Leadership Conference, widening their scale to reach a much larger audience. In August of the same year, the name was once again changed to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the name the organization bears today.

The initiatives and beliefs of the group, along with those of several others, culminated in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963, where an estimated 250,000 demonstrators came to the Mall, making the march the largest political rally of its time. At this historic march, Dr. King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, inspiring the masses in attendance and those viewing at home. The march was later seen as an integral part to the passing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the National Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Committed to the philosophy of its founding president, Dr. Martin Luther King, the SCLC has always prided itself on nonviolent protests and rallies, allowing the message to overshadow the brutality they were often met with.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating this marvelous organization and wishing them great success in the next 50 years.

KOREA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the recently completed Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. The agreement was concluded on April 1 and now has been transmitted to Congress for consideration.

The Korea-U.S. FTA is of great importance to my Congressional district located in Los Angeles, Culver City, and Hollywood, as well as the entire state of California, which has played a critical role in the Pacific Rim's rapid economic expansion.

Today Korea is California's 5th largest trading partner and the Los Angeles Custom District's third largest trading partner, with nearly \$18 billion in two-way trade in 2005. Expanded trade between Korea and the U.S. will translate into more jobs and business for Los Angeles County where, most significantly, the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach handle 43 percent of cargo containers shipped to the U.S.

Madam Speaker, the Korea-U.S. FTA is also highly important to California's ethnic Korean community. As you know, California is home to the largest population of Koreans outside of Korea. In my 33rd Congressional district, Korean-Americans have built a thriving business and cultural area known as Koreatown. Many maintain close cultural, business, and family ties to their homeland.

The entertainment industry is critical to the economic health of California, and I am particularly heartened that the concluded Korea-U.S. FTA contains expanded protection for copyrighted works in today's digital economy. The agreement protects music, videos, software, and text from widespread unauthorized sharing via the Internet and provides for extended terms of protection for copyrighted works consistent with emerging international standards. The agreement will also decrease the Korean TV content quota for film and animation.

The Korea-U.S. FTA must now clear one final and most important hurdle: Congressional approval. It is my hope that accommodation can be quickly reached on those provisions of the FTA that remain problematic to certain U.S. business sectors. I look forward to reading the enacting legislation.

Despite these remaining barriers, I am encouraged by the comprehensive and historic U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement that will promote economic growth, ensure that Los Angeles and California remain on the competitive cutting edge, and strengthen ties between the U.S. and the Republic of Korea.

THE GHOST OF ABERCROMBIE

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, the cold night brought me into the cancered bowels of this capital place. Barren halls and walkways and crawl space in front of me and inside cerebral tunnels.

It is here, away from now. I come to face the ghost of Abercrombie.

Who walked these paths and is remembered for not so hallow words.

Who bragged sincerely of life and death long before the funeral chant.

As cold and dark and empty and hollow as these moments are, it is here in the mind's basement that we face this white ghost.

Abercrombie who is still here.

Have hope—nothing ends.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRANSPARENT REPORTING UNDER ESA LISTING ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, since 1973, the Endangered Species Act, ESA, has been one of our Nation's most important environmental laws. For over 30 years, the ESA has been the primary safety net for our Nation's species that are facing extinction. And this cornerstone of our environmental policy has been a tremendous success. More than 99 percent of the species that have been listed as threatened or endangered have avoided extinction, including iconic animals such as the bald eagle, the gray wolf, and the whooping crane.

Recent reports have surfaced of political interference with the science behind Endangered Species Act decisions within the administration. It is crucial that we not allow politics to trump science in making decisions that can affect whether a species recovers or disappears forever. The ESA requires that decisions as to whether a species is an endangered or threatened species must be made purely based on the science. In addition, while decisions on the designation of a critical habitat of a species can include economic considerations, they must also be based on science.

The Transparent Reporting Under ESA Listing Act or, the TRUE Listing Act, that I am introducing today would help ensure that the science behind these decisions is never compromised by political interference. This legislation would require that concurrent with the publication of a determination as to whether a species is threatened or endangered or the designation of critical habitat, the Secretary of the Interior publish a summary statement of the scientific rationale behind the decision or revision. Furthermore, the summary statement would include the name and title of any executive branch employee or officer who was involved in the decision. Publishing this important information will help ensure that political appointees not just within the Department of Interior but within the entire executive branch

are not permitted to silently and anonymously interfere with the science behind ESA decisions.

However, this legislation shedding light on the Department of the Interior decisionmaking go hand in hand with additional whistleblower protections for government employees, such as those contained in H.R. 985, the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2007 that overwhelmingly passed the House in March of this year by a vote of 331–94. As we look to expand the transparency of ESA decisions, we must also ensure that those employees at the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of the Interior who are acting in the best interests of the Nation are not subject to reprisal.

IMPROVING FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE TO DEFEND THE NATION AND THE CONSTITUTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN J. HALL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, in the interest of national security, I reluctantly voted in favor of H.R. 3356, the Improving Foreign Intelligence Surveillance to Defend the Nation and the Constitution Act of 2007. Although I ultimately supported this bill, I am concerned that this bill provided expanded authority to the Attorney General, who I believe has previously violated U.S. law regarding the FISA courts and has breached the trust of the American people. If this were a permanent change to law, I would have voted against it because I believe provisions of this bill could be abused and allow the Attorney General to authorize wiretaps on American citizens without a warrant. Since it expires in 120 days, I am willing to support it as a stop-gap measure. Should we hear any evidence that the Attorney General or any other administration official has blatantly abused provisions of H.R. 3356, I will call for and support aggressive investigations into their actions.

IMPROVING FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE TO DEFEND THE NATION AND THE CONSTITUTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, one lesson we Americans learn as children is that we should guard our liberty and our security with equal vigor.

The FISA bill before us, while reinstating the power to direct surveillance toward foreigners, protects Americans in two key ways:

1. An independent judge, and not the attorney general or anyone else in the executive branch, will rule on surveillance applications.
2. Nothing in this bill immunizes any potential illegal surveillance.

Americans expect accountability, that their private lives remain private, and that their own

government is one they need not fear, especially when we face difficult times. This bill strikes the appropriate balance between liberty and security.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ROBERT LEE MOTT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the City of Chickasaw and indeed the entire State of Alabama lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory. Robert L. Mott was a successful businessman and restaurateur whose kindness and willingness to help others had a strong impact on the lives of so many throughout south Alabama.

Known to his community as “Papa Bear,” Robert started his own restaurant, Papa Bear’s Seafood, 12 years ago. He also owned Mott-White’s Fixtures, a restaurant equipment business in downtown Mobile. Robert’s colleagues remember him as a fair businessman who was a pleasure to conduct business with.

Prior to his career in the restaurant business, Robert worked in the engineering division of the Alabama State Highway Department, in addition to serving in the Army National Guard. He was active in his community, often helping to set up local church facilities.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community member and friend to many throughout south Alabama. He will be deeply missed by those who knew him. Robert Lee Mott is survived by his wife of 46 years, Dorothy Mott; 3 daughters, Robbin Stevens of Gulfcrest, Sandra Ivy of Chickasaw, and Kimberly Tait of Fort Morgan; his mother, Christine Mott of Tibbie; 2 brothers, Roger Mott of Mobile and Coyette Mott of Sarasota, Florida; and 7 grandchildren. May his family know that they are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR MARVIN H. CARUTHERS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Professor Marvin H. Caruthers on his recent selection as a recipient of the National Medal of Science. With this award Professor Caruthers officially joins the ranks of the finest minds to contribute to American science since Congress established the award in 1959.

Having held a faculty post at the University of Colorado at Boulder for the past 34 years, Professor Caruthers conducts the sort of cutting-edge research that consistently keeps CU-Boulder on the map for technological advancement and academic progress. The University deserves credit for creating an atmosphere that allows minds like Professor Caruthers’ to flourish, and I can say confidently that the 2nd District, the State of Colorado, and the country at large all benefit enormously from that investment.

Professor Caruthers is the cofounder of both Amgen, the world’s largest biotechnology company, and Applied Biosystems, a company that has commercialized Professor Caruthers’ work on DNA synthesizing. While his research is extraordinary in its own right, making his findings commercially available is how this important work manifests as life-saving technology, advanced understanding of human biology, and high-tech jobs for American workers. Professor Caruthers’ work gives us a textbook example of how advanced research becomes a guiding light for human advancement.

I hope my colleagues will join me in not only recognizing the past accomplishments of Professor Marvin Caruthers that have warranted his acceptance of the National Medal of Science, but also in wishing him all the best in his future pursuits.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 815 and rollcall No. 816, I did not vote as a protest of the actions of the majority related to rollcall No. 814. Had I voted, I would have voted nay on rollcall No. 815 and nay on rollcall No. 816.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN NOXAKIS

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge the distinguished life of John Noxakis, who entered God’s eternal paradise far too soon for those of us he leaves behind in this ephemeral veil of tears.

A life-long Detroit proud of his ethnic heritage, John embodied the Greek’s love of food and music. He was a gifted culinary artist, whose dishes delighted and sated diners throughout our community; and, in his purest gift, he was an unparalleled percussionist. It was through John’s drumming my brother and I met him. We three formed the nucleus of the little acclaimed and over amplified band, “The Flying Squirrels”; and, cramped together on the “cover band” roller coaster, off and on we jammed our way through nearly twenty years of small gigs and smaller paychecks. Through it all, John was the one person in the band whose gentility and sanity kept an often tempestuous combination of musical prima donnas kicking out the jams, instead of killing each other. He was true to this task until his tragic and unexpected death; and it has taken some time—is still taking time, may forever take time—for me to realize I will never see him ascend his set, hear his beat, and know my brother from another mother is right in time with every thought seeping through my strings.

Yes, in a world where too many crave at all costs to be “great,” John cared enough to be good. He was a loving brother to Michael and Katina; a devoted uncle to Christine, Sophia

and Maria; and a true friend to all he encountered. John, may you forever rest in God's infinite love until, one day, the rest of us Flying Squirrels sneak our way into Heaven's basement to disturb your peace for a moment and "Kick out the Jams."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning John Noxakis' passing; extend our deepest sorrow to all he loved and all who loved him; and commemorate his lifetime of bringing joy to his fellow human beings.

TAX AND SPEND

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, it has only taken seven months, but this new Democrat majority has brought back Washington's favorite pastime—tax and spend.

In their short time in the majority, Democrats have all but openly pledged to raise taxes on the American people by an incredible \$392 billion. That's on top of \$23 billion in new domestic spending. This is real money. It comes from the wallets of American families. Unfortunately, Democrats believe they know better how to spend the hard-earned money of America's workers than the workers themselves.

Republicans are working to restore fiscal sanity to this Congress. We have staunchly opposed the out-of-control spending, and brought some much needed sunshine to earmarks. When taxpayer dollars are being spent, we owe it to each and every American to create transparency and accountability. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring our duty to the American people to remain good stewards of their hard-earned money.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MRS. EVELEEN G. LATHAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madm Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire state of Alabama lost a dear friend and educator, and I rise today to honor her and pay tribute to her memory. Eveleen G. Lathan was a devoted teacher and dedicated school administrator whose diligence and guidance greatly impacted the lives of countless students in the Mobile area.

In 1960, Mrs. Lathan began her career in the Mobile County public school system, a dedicated legacy of service that would span over thirty-five years. Mrs. Lathan was a devoted elementary school teacher for over nine years before being named principal at Dauphin Island Elementary. Later, she also served as the head administrator at E.R. Dickson Elementary.

Perhaps her greatest commitment to the education of the children of Mobile, though, is evident in her twenty-five-year service as the

principal at Nan Gray Davis Elementary School. While principal there, she improved the standard of education and instruction tremendously, as well as setting an excellent example for administrators and teachers alike.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated educator and friend to many throughout south Alabama. She will be deeply missed by those who knew her. Mrs. Lathan, whose husband Delvin Lathan preceded her in death, is survived by her three sons, Jerry Lathan, Charles T. Lathan, and Joseph M. Lathan; four grandchildren, Brittany Lathan, Adam Lathan, Charles D. Lathan, and Zachary Lathan; and nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

May her family know that they are in the thoughts and prayers of all who loved and appreciated Mrs. Lathan and her many contributions to our community.

H.R. 3221, THE NEW DIRECTION FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT AND H.R. 2776, THE RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION TAX ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this energy package because the energy policies we adopt over the next 5 years will determine the future of life on our planet.

For too long, our energy policies have moved us in the wrong direction. Although we briefly made some progress in the mid-1980s because of increases in fuel economy standards, overall oil consumption has increased by nearly 4 million barrels per day since the mid-1970s. In that time, oil imports have also increased from approximately 40 percent to 60 percent. That dependence is putting our economic leadership and national security in peril according to top business leaders and national security experts.

The threat of global climate change has also grown and threatens to fundamentally change the global landscape. The United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has given us a clear picture of the role that human activities, particularly our energy consumption, play in global warming, and it has projected severe impacts for our planet and our way of life.

Dr. James Hansen, NASA's renowned climate expert, now warns that we have less than a decade to start making significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions if we're going to avert the most severe impacts of global climate change.

Top businesses, including the Big Three U.S. automakers, have also agreed that we must reduce greenhouse emissions in the U.S. by 60 percent to 80 percent by 2050.

Just as important, there are 2 billion people living in the developing world, including China and India, who do not have access to reliable sources of energy. They are striving to secure reliable energy and to achieve the prosperity we enjoy.

These factors represent both a challenge and an opportunity for our country and the world.

Silicon Valley, which is in my Congressional district, has reinvented itself time and again to anticipate the next economic challenge and opportunity. Today, the Valley is focused on energy, investing billions in new technologies and start-ups.

It's time for Congress to recognize and respond to these facts by taking a new approach on energy policy, and that is what this bill does.

Instead of addressing issues of supply and demand and promoting dinosaur-age technology, we are fixed on achieving two goals: becoming energy independent and addressing the threat of global warming.

This legislation is not the end of our efforts; it is the first step in meeting these goals. It is signal legislation.

The bill cuts \$16 billion in incentives for the oil and gas industry and invests it in renewable energy and efficiency. This includes eliminating the so-called Hummer tax loophole which gives a \$25,000 tax deduction for the purchase of SUVs weighing more than 6,000 pounds. I introduced the first legislation in the House to close this loophole in 2003. By taking this step alone, we will save nearly \$800 million that will be invested in consumer tax incentives to promote solar energy and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

The bill also raises 43 efficiency standards for appliances and buildings. Once fully implemented, the bill will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 10 billion tons. That is more than the emissions of all the cars on the road today. Included in this effort is a provision I proposed to improve the efficiency of computer data centers—the facilities that are the backbone of our information economy.

I believe we can and should do more.

First, we should do as California and many other States have done: Adopt a national renewable electricity standard (RES) and I will vote for the RES amendment that will require 15 percent of our electricity to come from renewable resources.

Second, we need to address the fuel economy of our automobile fleet. Although this is not part of our debate today, I look forward to addressing it as we take up additional energy legislation in the fall.

Madam Speaker, we have a long way to go toward fully addressing global warming and energy independence. This energy package represents an important first step and I urge my colleagues to support it.

HONORING RAY ADKINS

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ray Adkins, a remarkable man with a long history of service to his country. Mr. Adkins, a resident of Harned, Kentucky, has spent the majority of his life serving his country and helping his fellow Veterans.

A Vietnam veteran, Ray Adkins had a distinguished 20-year military career. While serving, Ray was always willing to lend a hand to his fellow soldiers. He and his wife Rosemarie always let new military families stay in their home and assisted them until they got back on their feet.

Mr. Adkins' service did not stop once he retired from the military. He has dedicated his life to assisting veterans in Kentucky. Ray has a veterans ministry at Corinth Baptist Church in McQuady, Kentucky. Also, he is an adjutant in the American Legion Post #1 in Hardinsburg, Kentucky. Ray has been working tirelessly to get a building for his American Legion Post.

It is my privilege to honor Ray Adkins today, before the entire United States House of Representatives, for his service to our country and to his fellow Kentucky veterans. I admire his endless dedication to helping veterans in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3221 AND H.R.
2776

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, August 4, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the House Energy Package. And I would like to commend the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Ways and Means Committee for putting together a strong package that will set our Nation on the path

for a more reliable and efficient energy policy. I would also like to thank Chairman DINGELL and Chairman RANGEL for including my bill, H.R. 2505, The E-85 PUMP Act as part of this important legislation.

We all recognize that the path to energy independence will require a number of alternative energy solutions—and ethanol has an important role to play in achieving this goal.

In Indiana's Second District, we have been blessed with the resources to serve as a center for the production of a new generation of ethanol and other bio-fuels. And I am committed to making sure Midwest farmers are an integral part of our Nation's energy strategy.

However, as ethanol production continues to reach record levels, only 1 percent of America's approximately 168,000 gas stations offer E-85 gasoline. That is only one E-85 pump for every 6,000 vehicles on the road.

While there are several reasons why ethanol has yet to fully mature on the market, a significant factor is that many big oil companies use a number of strategies to make it difficult for franchised gas stations to offer E-85.

For example, standard contracts issued by many large oil companies require franchisees to purchase fuel directly from their distributors. Since these distributors do not offer E-85, gas stations are unable to offer an alternative fuel. Other companies prohibit franchisees from

selling E-85 under the main canopy, require E-85 to be displayed on separate signs, and prohibit franchisees from accepting franchise credit cards for the purchase of E-85.

These tactics not only limit consumer choice, but also reinforce our dependence on foreign oil.

My provision would prohibit an oil company from restricting the right of a franchisee to install E-85 pumps or sell or advertise E-85 fuel. In addition, it would also expand the Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Tax Credit to allow gas station owners to claim a credit on 50 percent of the costs associated with installing or converting equipment to sell E-85 up to \$50,000. In short, this bill will provide tax incentives for gas station owners who want to—and should—do the right thing.

These important changes will not only improve consumer access to alternative fuels, but will also make it easier for local businessmen and women to invest in our energy security, environment, and our communities.

Alternative energy sources, like E-85, are critical for ending our dependence on foreign oil, reducing the impact of climate change, and creating jobs across this country. And I greatly appreciate the Committee's inclusion of my E-85 PUMP Act in today's legislation.